

THE HINDOO PATRIOT

With which is incorporated the Indian Field.

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CALCUTTA:—MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1883.

Per Annum in Advance.
TOWN.....11-8
MOFUSSIL.....13-4

THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 5TH NOVEMBER.

WE REPRODUCE from *Nature* the following details of the Java eruption: The Island of Krakatoa the summit of which peak was 2600 feet above water level has totally disappeared below the sea and the neighbouring Island of Dwaissindeweg is split in five parts. Sixteen new volcanic islands have been formed between Krakatoa and Silesia and the sea bottom in the straits of Sunda has completely changed. The subsidences and upheavals have caused a large wave about 100 feet in height to sweep down on the south coast of Java and Sumatra. The whole coast line to the south-west has changed its configuration.

PRESIDENT Arthur has invited various civilized countries of the world to send representatives to an International Conference at Washington, the date of which is unfixed, to establish a common Prime Meridian. It is desirable for the cause of science that there should be one common Prime Meridian, and our Indian Government should send its representatives. India is situate almost at the antipodes of America, and steps should be taken to secure a common Prime Meridian for the two countries.

A CORRESPONDENT, who is a Hindu Positivist, sends us the following extract from a letter just received by him from Dr. Congreve:

"You have more than one Brahman in your small church ready. From them might begin the work which Mr. Geddes foresaw and in the accomplishment of which you see the true hope for India. Throwing behind them all the possible evils of the existing situation, though with a clear perception of them, might it not be that they should be their caste (Dr. C. means the Orthodox Brahmins) in the direction you indicate in the reconstruction of humanity as a common religion, which accepts all the religious ideas of your people and yet binds the whole people to a community of effort with other nations? The just patriotism of your people of other similar nationalities might be asserted in this claim to take your place as a powerful organ of Humanity in the concert of the whole of the globe's inhabitants. Success is to the bold. Some positive conceptions of this kind might be expressed by a Brahman in his own way in an appeal to what I see you call a 'decaying, downcast and stolid, almost contemptible' class, breathing new vigour, raising enlightenment and ensuring respect for it, as of a new national aspiration issuing from the traditional guides and leaders of the people."

WE LEARN from a correspondent at Nattore that that part of the Rajshye district is being decimated by fever and cholera. The deaths daily are numbered by acres.

WHILE the promoters of the Calcutta Internal Exhibition are trying to secure the attendance of the cultivating class and the agricultural population generally at the Calcutta Exhibition we receive doleful accounts of the consternation with which they are filled. From Midnapore we learn that the cry of distress has already risen and the people are paralyzed at the prospect before them. There is no prospect of food supply at home, neither can they leave their families to seek for work elsewhere, most of whom are suffering from malarious fever. How can men in this plight be expected to lay out money to come to the Exhibition?

"LAMB'S TALE" from Shakespeare have been translated into Hindi by Lala Kashi Nath Khettry.

A RACE from Dover to London between a carrier pigeon and a mail train is said to have resulted in a victory for the bird.

THE TOTAL cost of the German national monument just unveiled in the Niederwald is 1,192,000 marks, or about £596,000.

THE SALARY of the Dewan of Travancore has lately been increased from Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 2,500 a month.

AN OFFICIAL CONFERENCE will be held in Calcutta, in the third week in December, to consider a scheme for the adoption of a uniform plan for the whole of India for the preparation of agricultural statistics.

TUESDAY, 6TH NOVEMBER.

THE RAST GOPTAR says that a foundling hospital has recently been established at Pundherpur in the Bombay Presidency for the purpose of nursing and rearing of children, born of Hindu widows who are prevented by their religion from remarrying. It is said that thirteen women of all castes have already

taken advantage of the institution. It is proposed to open similar hospitals at Ahmedabad and Surat. The movement is one directed against the crime of infanticide.

THE COLLECTOR of North Arcot has started, with the help of some of the leading landholders of the district, an Agricultural Association, the objects of which are the establishment of an experimental farm, the adoption of new systems of agriculture, and to induce the ryots to begin the use of improved implements which are found to be better adapted to the soil than the old and rude ploughs now in use among them. We hope the public will be kept informed of the success of the operations of the new Association.

THE LARGEST railway station in the world is that recently erected by the London and North-Western Railway at Birmingham. It covers over eleven acres of ground and occupies the space covered previously by three hundred houses. This huge building and its approaches cost the company about £31,250. The largest terminal station in India is owned by the Madras Railway Company, but the G. I. P. Company will very soon complete one in every way superior to that of the sister line.

IN THE year 1882 there were 246 mills in Calcutta, of which the following supply the largest number:—

Description.	Number.
Flour manufactures	... 50
Soorkey mills	... 42
Iron and brass foundries	... 23
Oil and seed works	... 21
Yarn-spinning and pressing companies	... 19
Hydraulic jute presses	... 16
Cotton mills	... 6

There are besides steam printing presses 3, bone-crushing mills 2, rope manufactures 3, tanners and curriers 2, ice manufactures 2, arrowroot manufactures 1, artificial stones 1, silk manufactures 1, sugar refiners 1, paper mills 1, and so on.

WITH REFERENCE to the address on the Religion of India, by Babu Pratap Chandra Ghosh, who is now in America, the *Baptist* observes:—

"This was a most remarkable address, remarkable in every point of view. That a Hindu should speak English with such purity and clearness and such idiomatic correctness was wonderful. An intelligent friend told me that he never heard English so spoken by a foreigner, except in the case of Kossuth. It was especially wonderful that he should express abstract conceptions and metaphysical ideas in a language not his own with such ease and beauty. No one could fail to be struck with his marked ability and acuteness, and his spirit is devout, charitable, reverent."

THE FOLLOWING para is going the round of the papers: A younger son of the Duke of Argyll, wishing to marry an untitled lady, of course asked his father's consent. The Duke is said to have replied that personally he had no objection to the match; but in view of the fact that his eldest son had espoused a daughter of the queen, he thought it right to ask her majesty's consent. The Queen referred the matter to her uncle in Germany, the latter to the Emperor and the Emperor to Bismarck who, being unexceptionally strong himself, did not refer the question to any one else, but decided that the marriage might take place.

ACCORDING to the *Lahore Tribune* the total number of deaths in the Punjab during 1882 was 504,799, or 14,980 less than in the previous year. This reduction is observable under two heads, namely, cholera and fever. In 1881, there were 5207 deaths from cholera and 355,279 deaths from fever. In 1882, the former numbered 139 and the latter 3,46,680.

WEDNESDAY, 7TH NOVEMBER.

THE DEWALI FESTIVAL is celebrated with great éclat at Amritsar. But on this festive occasion of this year a race distinction was thus made:—

The *tamasha* is worth seeing, but it is pity that the middle and the lower classes of the people cannot enjoy it, because the street from Hall Gate to the Clock Tower is blockaded by police constables. This blockade continues from 6½ to 8 P. M. during which time none can pass through this important part of the city, excepting the Europeans and others masquerading in European habits and the upper ten of native society who can afford the luxury of wearing an English coat. And why is all this done?—in order that the *sahib logue* may be able to drive fast and at their ease to the temple. And for this purpose, the use of the most frequented public street is being denied to those from whose money it was built and is kept in order, by those who are fed by them for guarding the rights of person and property. I have seen even the Deputy Commissioner, the responsible Governor of the district, driving happily in his stately car but not feeling any com-

punction for trampling upon those rights which it is his sacred duty to uphold.

Thus writes a local correspondent of the *Lahore Tribune*. We commend the above to Sir Charles Aitchison.

THE TIMES OF INDIA has the following:—

It is exceedingly unfortunate that so much bad blood has been generated in Calcutta over such a simple matter as the provision of a guard-of-honour for the Viceroy on the occasion of his Excellency's arrival in Calcutta. Volunteers really have or ought to have no concern with politics, and if they are to intermeddle with every political controversy which arises, their career of usefulness will soon be closed. It is absurd to suppose that because the vast proportion of the Calcutta Volunteers, in common with most Europeans in India, dissent from Lord Ripon's policy with regard to the Gilbert Bill, their recognition of him as the head of a great Government might be construed into a demonstration in his favour or a tacit approval of his measures. The honour is done not to Lord Ripon as an individual, but to Lord Ripon as the Queen's representative, and as such he is entitled to all respect so long as he remains in office.

Quite true, but when people get mad, who can convince them that they are wrong?

AN INDUSTRIOUS compiler has gone into statistics of all the actresses in European countries who have succeeded in gaining coronets. The total is not encouraging to the favorites of the footlights, as during the last twenty years, only one in every 846 married a royal prince, one in every 512 a duke, one out of 200 a count, and one out of 170 a baron.

THE GOVERNOR OF FIJI and the planters are on such bad terms that the Governor had refused all correspondence with the Planters' Association. Happy Bengal!

THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR was received with great éclat at Dinagore. The Maharaja of Dinagore made all the preparations at his own expense. The local correspondent of the *Statesman* has the following:—

There was a platform erected, with a canopy over it, by the Maharaja, and here His Honor was, on his alighting, received by Lord Ulick Browne, Mr. Tate, the Officiating Magistrate, together with some other Government officials. The Commissioner then introduced to his Honor the Maharaja of Dinagore, Roy Radha Gobinda Rao Sahib Bahadur, Babu Budhinath Chowdhry, and the minor zemindars of Churaman. After the exchange of a few words with the Maharaja, the Lieutenant-Governor entered into conversation with the Europeans assembled on the platform to welcome his Honor. The Magistrate in one of the former's carriages, the house prepared for his reception during his stay in our town. There were two arches erected on the road through which the Lieutenant-Governor drove. The procession was composed of a large number of elephants richly caparisoned, belonging to the Dinagore raj.

Of course the Lieutenant-Governor was bound to be attentive to the Maharaja, but did not the other Native gentlemen assembled deserve the courtesy of a single word?

THE SAME correspondent has the following:—

The Lieutenant-Governor received a deputation of the zamindars headed by the young Maharaja of Dinagore. Another address was read out and duly handed over to his Honor, enclosed in a very beautiful silver case manufactured by Messrs. Hamilton and Co. of Calcutta. The reply of the Lieutenant-Governor was to the effect that the zamindars had no right or title in the land which belonged either to the Government or to the cultivator of the soil. Another address had also been got up by the pundits of the town. After having kept them in waiting for the best part of the day with empty stomachs, they were at last told that his Honor had no time to receive them.

So the poor Pundits starved! When will the address-giving mania cease?

WE TAKE the following from the *Pioneer*:—

It appears that transfusion of blood has become so common an operation in American surgery that the term "donor" is scientifically applied to the person whose veins are drawn upon. A reporter in New York lately interviewed some doctors on the subject, when he elicited such facts as that Negro blood is darker in colour than the blood of white men, that some physicians assert cow's milk to be an excellent recuperator of empty veins, and that it is literally correct to say blood is thicker than water, more especially when the fact is noted that blood taken from a relative of the person operated on coagulates much more rapidly than that of a mere stranger. One hale old fellow always willing to come down with a handsome "donation" to the New York medical men is a healthy subject, experiences no ill effects from what he loses, and, we are informed by the inquiring reporter, "takes his whiskey without too much water in it."

WE HAVE received the following telegram from the Press Commissioner's Office:—

Abdul Agiz and Sa'eh Bin Ali with considerable force attacked Mehat on night of twenty-first October, but were repulsed with heavy loss. Further attack on twenty-third repulsed by garrison with aid of guns of H. M. S. *Phelomel* which was guarding lives and property of British subjects in the town. On twenty-sixth rebels retreated having gained no ground, a large body of Arabs has arrived to aid Sultan who is now marching against rebels. British subjects not injured, order restored.

THURSDAY, 8TH NOVEMBER.

THE DUAL number of the last issue of the *Bharuti*, a Bengali monthly, is an interesting one. It contains articles of varied interest and some of them of practical importance. Amongst them is one on the "National Fund." The first question the writer raises is—"if the National Fund be the people's fund and its object to improve the social and political condition of the people, why not adopt the language of the people in advocating it. Why address them in a language which the people do not understand? What is the object of the Fund and who are its promoters and agitators? What do they intend to do with the fund? To rouse all India to supplicate Government for assistance? Why not teach the people to rely upon their own exertions? What not make the fund provincial, each province to have a fund of its own to serve its local and provincial interests? If the object be political agitation, that itself is unnational. The misfortune is that those who condemn the Bengali language, who do not know it, and who think it the pride of their life to make a display of their knowledge of English, are the prime movers in this agitation."

WE ARE REQUESTED to publish the following letter:

SIR,—I find from a Bengali circular, which has come into my hands, that one Shib Chunder Mookerjee is engaged in translating "Govinda Samanta" into Bengali. He says in the circular that I have given him permission to translate the book. I hereby declare that I have not given him or any one else permission to translate "Govinda Samanta" into Bengali or into any other language, and I warn all concerned that legal proceedings will be taken against any person who publishes a translation of "Govinda Samanta" into Bengali or into any other language.

Your faithfully,
LALBHARI DE.

Hoochly College, November 6th 1883.

THERE WERE 216 deaths in Calcutta during the week ending 3rd November of which 25 were from fever, none from small pox, 70 from fever, 16 from bowel-complaints, 2 from accidents, 9 from phthisis and asthma, 9 from spleen diseases, 29 from tetanus and the rest from other causes. Infant mortality 67. Among non-Asiatics and mixed races the deaths were 5. The average of daily mortality was 30.8.

THE LONDON DAILY NEWS makes the following remarks on the collapse of Mr. Atkins, the Railway Service delegate, in England:

The Congress of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants was concluded at Edinburgh yesterday with a very striking and significant resolution. The opponents of Lord Ripon's just and generous policy towards the natives of India have sent over the Secretary of the Indian Railway Servants' Society to stir up working men at home against the Liberal Bill. Mr. Atkins, whose coming had been heralded by a series of announcements, arrived just in time to attend the Railway Servants' Congress. It seemed like an auspicious beginning of his mission. He had a claim to be heard as representing the Indian correlative of the British Society, and no doubt seems to have been entertained as to his success in getting an expression of opinion hostile to the Bill and to the Government which supports Lord Ripon in persisting with it. Yesterday Mr. Atkins made his speech. He was heard with patience; was replied to by some members of the Congress; and at the close of the discussion a resolution was passed declaring the opinion of the Congress that the true policy of the Indian Government is free to open up all official positions to every qualified person, irrespective of race or creed. That is the fit and natural answer of English working men to an appeal based on the worst prejudices of race. It is impossible that an assembly of Englishmen, not specially packed for the purpose, should be got to condemn so small a step towards further equality of races before the law as that which the Indian Government is now about to take. The agitation against it is purely artificial, and is limited to a section of the official class. Those who have sent Mr. Atkins on his pleasant excursion home may have done India a service they did not intend. By all means let him get together working men's meetings and interest them in Indian questions. The result will be to push forward the Indian Government, not in the direction he and his friends wish it to go, but in that expressed in yesterday's resolution of the Railway Servants' Congress, of throwing all official positions open to qualified persons without regard to race or creed. There is no doubt that that is the spirit in which the English people wish India to be ruled.

A BOMBAY VERNACULAR PAPER furnishes the following particulars regarding the late Swami Dyanund Saraswati:

The late lamented Swami was born in Waukanair in Kattywar. He attached himself to the celebrated Pandit Anand-giri, and from the first devoted himself to the study of Hindu mythology. On the death of his great master, the Swami raised the standard of reform. He made his debut at Benares fifteen years ago before a concourse of about 900 learned Pandits. At this solemn meeting, presided over by the Rajah of Benares, the Swami undertook to prove that the Hindu Vedas did not recommend idol worship. The arguments were abstruse, the discussion warm, but Dyanund Swami carried his point. About ten years ago, he visited Bombay and challenged all the Pandits and Shashtris in and about this city to meet him for the purpose of discussing the question of idol worship. The Swami's deputation, however, was so great that none cared to enter the lists with him. Not only did he carry war against the worst form of idolatry, but he was a great supporter of widow marriage and such other reforms.

A CORRESPONDENT at Narrail writes to us as follows: "A tigress, which had been committing much havoc among the domestic animals of the villages of Bhatra, Charakhali and others about Narrail, has been shot down and killed by Babu Govind Chauder Roy, Zemindar of Hatturia (Narrail). He has by this act given great relief to the poor

people of these villages. We hear that the Babu is a good sportsman and indulges in sports frequently."

FRIDAY, 9TH NOVEMBER.

THE BOMBAY GAZETTE is a thick and thin supporter of the Bengal Rent Bill. And yet it does not complacently accept the provision of free sale. Our contemporary says:

It is this third F—the right of free sale—which furnishes Mr. Lethbridge with ground for asserting that the ryots surrender the land to rack-rent and land-jobbers. We ourselves pointed out that, if the ryot has the right to sell his interest in his holding without the consent of his Zemindar, he may be compelled by any creditor to part with that species of property in satisfaction of a debt. Now, nearly all the ryots are in debt, either to a moneylender or—in certain districts—to an Indigo-Planter. If they be forced to sell it right off, it is at least possible that the creditor will buy in the occupancy, and make the former holder his care-taker or tenant-at-will, or, if Mr. Lethbridge please, his serf. Whether with this possibility looming in the future it is advisable to give the right of free sale to the serf, and deprive the Zemindar of any voice in the matter, it is for those who are well acquainted with local circumstances to consider. We pronounce no opinion upon that point.

But if you have an opinion, express it, if not, why trouble yourself about the subject? The fact is that very few publicists understand the Rent Bill, and yet they do not hesitate to give their opinion dogmatically. Fools rush in where angels fear to tread.

WE ARE SORRY to see it stated that there will be no Sonepore Fair this year.

IT IS STATED that a Company will be floated in England for the construction of the Hyderabad-Chunda Railway. Lord Lawrence will be Chairman and Sir John Strachey Deputy Chairman.

ACCORDING to a contemporary, Prince Heinrich, the second son of the Crown Prince of Germany, will pay a visit to India this cold weather. The Prince is serving as a Sub-Lieutenant on board the German corvette *Oiga*, under orders for the East.

THE TIMES OF INDIA's London Correspondent has the following:

There has been a rumour afloat that Lord Kimberley and Lord Ripon are arranging between them to withdraw the Liberal Bill. It is thus referred to in a news letter for the provinces which is frequently made the vehicle of the designs of the Ministerial Left:—"The story goes that the consideration of the measure is to be postponed from time to time until the hour arrives for Lord Ripon to return home; and that with a new Viceroy an opportunity will be given for the reconsideration of the question. Upon this notion hangs a great deal of the comfort which the opponents of the measure feel in the success of their agitation. But there is no truth in the story. At the same time it is clear that Lord Kimberley is holding back in hope that an agitation which has been conducted so violently will subside with the lapse of time. He is wrong, for the only argument now possible is the argument of experience—the agitation will go on until it is proved to be absurd by the fact that the measure does no sort of harm; but, at all events, it is satisfactory to think that, lord of many compromises though he is, Lord Kimberley is not going to surrender altogether."

We can't believe that Lord Kimberley funks.

A NEW COLLEGE is to be established in London for the preparation of candidates for the Civil Service at home and abroad (especially India), and for the army, in which individual teaching and training, with combined instruction, will be united, and every effort will be made to encourage mutual responsibility amongst the students.

SATURDAY 10TH, NOVEMBER.

THE PIONEER understands that the proposals of the Port Commissioners of Calcutta for the new docks at Kidderpore have been generally approved by the Government of India, and will be submitted immediately for the sanction of the Secretary of State.

TRUTH hears that the Queen has issued, or is about to issue, a private "memorandum" enjoining the privileged occupants of certain Royal palaces to "the correction and reformation of their manners and excesses." Recent events have brought to Her Majesty's knowledge the astounding fact that in one of her palaces gambling has been regularly going on to an almost incredible extent.

AN ENGLISH PAPER has the following:

One of the visitors to Philadelphia on the occasion of the opening of a Woman's Medical Congress there, was Mrs. Anandabai Joshee, a Hindu woman-physician. Mrs. Joshee is eighteen years of age, the wife of a Brahmin, an employee of the Government at Serampore, India. It was supposed that she would lose caste and become unclean in crossing the sea, but in a recent letter she stated to a friend that she had as yet retained it. Arrangements were made for her, so that she might prepare her own food, for, by eating from dishes that have been touched by those of a different caste, a Hindu becomes impure and loses his or her caste. She also kept her nationality. She is spoken of as a young woman of remarkably fine intellect, and as determined to devote her life to the interests of her fellow-women in India.

THE ASSAM NEWS says:

We have received a letter from one Sarfi, a Mohammedan woman, living at Sibisagar stating that her son named Akbar Ali who was employed as a Native Doctor in the Dekrai tea garden in the district of Lakhimpur has been missing from the night of the 12th of July; that suspecting foul play she petitioned the Deputy Commissioner of the district praying that enquiries might be made into the fate of her son, but

that as he did not pass any order on her petition for more than a month she lodged information at the Police Station about her son having been missing and that the Police commenced enquiring into the matter whereupon the Deputy Commissioner became displeased with the Police and fined the offending Inspector in the sum of Rs. 100.

Strange if true.

WE TAKE the following from the Simla Argus:

In Thibet murderers are sent into the mountains or are thrown into caverns filled with scorpions.

The object of burial occupies much public attention in Tibet. The corpse some days after death, is brought to the funeral, who causes it to be put up into very small mounds and then to dogs. This is designated "terrestrial interment." The bones are pounded in a mortar and mixed with flour, then given to dogs or vultures in form of balls: this is "cestial burial." Those corpses that have not left money for either of the above modes, are thrown into the water; this is called "aquatic burial," and is very ignominious.

THE ENGLISHMAN has received the following startling telegram from Agra:

City of Agra, November 9.—The state of suspense here continues, and provisions are unobtainable except from Muhammadan dealers. The stock of flour at the European mill is all sold. Yesterday no wheat was obtainable for grinding purposes. There have been no transactions in the cotton market since Wednesday.

THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL will reopen on the 24th instant. The two local Self-Government Bills will be early taken into consideration.

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week:

London, November 8.—The Duke and Duchess of Connaught left here last night by the Overland route for India. A reward of one thousand pounds has been offered for the discovery of the authors of the explosions on the underground railway.

4.—Sir Stafford Northcote was elected yesterday Rector of Edinburgh University, defeating Mr. Trevelyan.

7.—Hempstead Brothers, Engineers, Grantham, have suspended payment with liabilities estimated at two hundred thousand pounds, which amount is, however, secured.

Sydney, November 4.—The Parliament of Victoria was opened yesterday by the Governor, who, in his speech on the occasion, said that the importance of the annexation of New Guinea was the more intense through the intentions of the French Government to deport criminals there. He said it was a matter of vital importance not to permit the Islands of the Pacific to fall into the hands of a foreign Power, and he entertained hopes that federation would induce England to avert that calamity.

Belgrade, November 4.—Disturbances have broken out at Chusacka Serbia (Sic). Troops have started to the scene of disturbance, and popular liberties there have been suspended.

8.—The Serbian troops have captured the insurgent's position at Kalafat, and taken one hundred prisoners.

Paris November 4.—News has been received here from Tonquin that Admiral Courbet has captured the citadels of Nigebique and Phunol.

7.—News from Tonquin states that, owing to the roads being impassable for heavy guns, the operations against Raconah and Soutay have been postponed until next month. The Chinese in both places are preparing to offer a desperate resistance. M. Harmand, Civil Commissioner in Tonquin, has been superseded. A despatch from the Chinese Government, in reply to M. Tricou, has been delivered to M. Ferry.

Shanghai, November 6.—In contradiction to the despatch of M. Tricou asserting that Li Hung Chang has disavowed the negotiations carried on by Marquis Tseng, the Chinese Government are preparing a despatch expressing complete approval of Marquis Tseng's proceedings.

Berlin November 8.—The Imperial Prince, on behalf of the Emperor, is going to Madrid next week to pay a return visit to King Alfonso.

WE ARE requested to announce for general information that the 1st monthly meeting of the Bethune Society of the current session will be held at the Theatre of the Medical College on Wednesday, the 14th November 1883, at 8½ p. m., when a lecture will be delivered by M. Jules Jonbert on Exhibitions. The lecture will be a very interesting one at the present time, and we hope it will be largely attended. The lecture is open to the public.

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the under-mentioned publications and periodicals:

1. Report of the Administration of the Stamp Department of the Punjab and its dependencies for 1882-83. 2. Statistics of Indian Salt Revenue from April to September 1879-80 to 1883-84. 3. Report on the Cotton Production and Trade of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh for 1882-83. 4. General Report on Public Instruction in Assam for 1882-83. 5. Meteorological Observations recorded at Stations in India in 1882, corrected and reduced. By H. F. Blanford F. R. S. 6. Meteorological Records for 1882 December February 1883. 7. Register of original meteorological observations in 1883 reduced and corrected. 8. Report on the Administration of the Registration Department of the Punjab and its dependencies for 1882-83. 9. Progress Report of Forest Administration in the Lower Provinces of Bengal for 1882-83. 10. Report of the Administration of the Central Provinces for 1882-83. 11. Trade and Navigation accounts of British India for September 1883 and the six months, 1st April to 30th September 1883. 12. Proceedings of the Asiatic Society of Bengal Nos. 7. and 8, July and August 1883. 13. Army Circulars of 30th September 1883. 14. An Essay on Happiness. By Kisorilal Roy. 15. The Voice of India for October 1883. 16. Native Indian Judges By the Right Hon'ble Sir Arthur Hobhouse, K. C. S. I. (From the *Contemporary Review*, June, 1883) Republished by the British India

Committee 17. Criminal Jurisdiction over Englishmen in India. By C. C. Mārae Esq. (From the *Fortnightly Review*, August, 1883.) Republished by the British India Committee. 18. Europeans and Natives in India. By Alfred Haggard, Esq. (Reprinted from the contemporary *Review*, August, 1883.) Republished by the British India Committee. 19. Government Excise and Outstall System in Bengal. By the Revd T. Evans, Monghyr. (Reprinted from the *Calcutta Review*). 20. Prospects of the Indian Reform Association, London. 21. The Regenerator of Aryavarta, Lahore, Vol. I. No. 45. 22. Illustrated Raj Tarangini in Bengali, Vol. I. No. 1. 23. Ditto in Sanskrit Vol. I. No. 1. 24. Analysis of the Indian Registration Law (Act III of 1877) Published by Rai Ramchandra. 25. Sakha, a Bengali monthly No. 11, Vol. II.

INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE CULTIVATION OF SCIENCE. (210, Bow-Bazar Street.) (SESSION 1883.)

Lecture by Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar, on Tuesday the 13th Inst., at 6½ p.m.

Subject: The Inductorium. Electrical Discharges in Vacua. Geissler's and Crookes' Tubes.

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1883.

THE BENGAL TENANCY BILL. III.

OPINIONS OF COLLECTORS.

In this article we propose to consider the opinions recorded by some of our District Collectors. We will take Mr. Westmacott's opinion first.

MR. WESTMACOTT, COLLECTOR OF DACCA.

Mr. Westmacott writes that his personal experience as a revenue officer has been gained principally in the Rajshy, Dacca, and Chittagong Divisions. He observes:

In the part of the country which I know well, if any legislative interference is required, it is rather on behalf of the landlord—I use the term loosely for the receiver of rent—than on behalf of the tenant.

It must then be considered whether the natural law which impoverishes an agricultural population when too numerous for the land, can be counteracted by legislation, and whether the same legislation will not produce more evil than good if applied to tracts in which fertile waste land is crying out for cultivators.

To resort to the emasculating interference of legislation on behalf of the weaker in free bargain between man and man has been tried over and over again in the history of the world, and has as often failed in its object. The weak cannot be made strong by law because the strong will find means of evading the law. The evil, however, is not without a remedy, and that remedy is already in course of application. I may say that there are two such remedies. One of them is the diversion of the surplus labour of Behar from agriculture to other spheres, and the other is emigration. I find men working in Howrah in mills and factories, as carters, grooms, or labourers, and easily earning six or seven rupees a month, while employers tell me that they want more hands. I question these men, and find they come from Behar districts, in which the Magistrates have told me that three rupees per month is far more than it is necessary to pay as wages to the village watchman. Few of the emigrants as yet bring their families with them and most of them return to their homes after a few months' work, but the number of permanent settlers is increasing, and the demand for labour is such that it must continue to increase. I have seen how the position of the English farm-labourer has improved in consequence of emigration, till a farmer in Sussex has told me that he has difficulty in hiring a carter for a guinea a week and a free house, and I feel confident that emigration will gradually raise the position of the Behar ryot.

Turning to the parts of Bengal with which I am well acquainted, I find that the proposed law is all in favour of the ryot, who is already so strong as to be able to withhold from the zemindar that to which he is justly entitled. In Behar, if a zemindar deprives a ryot of his land, I presume the ryot must starve. In Bengal it would be the zemindar that would starve, and the ryot would migrate gaily to another estate, of which the proprietor would welcome an additional tenant, and an increase in his rent-roll. I use the term Bengal with reference to the divisions of Rajshy, Dacca and Chittagong, in each of which I have gained some experience. Not only is the zemindar unable to enhance the rent beyond what a reasonable ryot thinks it just that he should pay, but in many instances dishonest ryots maintain their position on the land without paying any rent whatever, and the result is litigation and violence.

I believe that it is less the pecuniary necessities of the zemindars that have led them to create tenures intermediate between themselves and their ryots, than the difficulty of realising rents without more detailed supervision than the proprietor of extensive estates can exercise. In order to secure an income without direct collection from the ryots, the Maharaja of Burdwan has granted *putnees* to middlemen, and

they again, I believe, have created tenures over lesser areas subordinate to their own. The Paikpara zemindars in Noakholly have promoted all their ryots to be petty talukdars, so that the rents may be collected by sale procedure in the court of the Collector. The Maharani of Dinagore grants villages in farm for five years to one or more of the principal residents in them, while individual ryots often hold lands for which they pay more than a hundred rupees as rent. The foundation of the strength of the ryots' position is the quantity of land available for cultivation beyond what the existing population can cultivate, and the zemindars are too short-sighted to offer sufficient liberal terms to encourage that immigration which would increase the competition for land. To speak of the wretchedness of Bengal ryots as notorious, argues absolute ignorance of the facts of the case, and can only excite ridicule in those who know anything of the ryots of Dinagore, Bickergunge or Noakholly, to say nothing of other Bengal districts.

I have no wish to represent the Bengal zamindar as an injured innocent who wants no more than his just due; on the contrary, I know that he is ready enough to grasp at all he can get, and the only reason that he has not reduced his tenantry to the condition of the Behar ryots is that the natural law of the pressure of population on the land has been too strong for him. At the same time, I think, he now in most instances gets somewhat less than his due, and if legislative interference is warranted, and likely to prove efficient, it should be in the direction rather of helping the zemindar to obtain his due than of further strengthening the position of the ryot.

MR. SAMUELLS, COLLECTOR OF BANKURA.

Mr. Samuells does not comment on the principles of the Bill. But the detailed criticisms cover principles. Thus:

This chapter, concerning rights of occupancy, requires no apology at the present time. It is now apparently admitted that only ryots of long standing (*kidmi*) are entitled to these rights. The twelve years' rule is certainly maintained, but the principle involved in section 47 seems to me an almost ludicrous way of making it out. There is to be a perfect transformation scene on a day yet to be fixed. In this draft it is 3rd March 1883. On that date villagers who may be mere tenants-at-will, and may never have held one piece of land for more than three days at a time, will suddenly become ryots with rights of occupancy in the plot last held, all contracts to the contrary notwithstanding. This is directly opposed to the law as laid down in section vii of Act VIII of 1869, and renders all contracts under that Act mere waste paper. They would, probably, convert this right in to cash at the first opportunity; but I cannot think the circumstances of the case will justify such flagrant infringement of the rights of the zemindar.

Section 49 appears to be the result of a confusion of ideas—that is, a confounding of *khamar* land as it is and as it ought to be. It is a contradiction of terms to speak of any one holding *khamar* land as a ryot, unless a *bbag-jotedar* is considered such; and I have pointed out that he is not looked on as a ryot, but as another form of labourer. *Khamar* land ceases to be *khamar* land once it is let out to a ryot. The tendency is to let out *khamar* lands, not to retain them, except, perhaps, in indigo factories.

Section 50 bestows a number of valuable privileges, along with this right on the ryot, would it be too much to ask that one provision be added on behalf of the man at whose expense, and perhaps, in spite of whom we are so generous, would it be too much to add, as an incident, that the occupancy right is liable to be revoked for non-payment of the "fair and equitable rent" on the due date? We have taken great trouble to ensure the ryot against exaction. We have gone so far as to interfere with the liberty of contract between him and his master, and it will surely be only just to the zemindar that we insist on punctual payment from the ryot, as we insist on his punctually paying the revenue. If the zemindar is liable to lose his whole estate for non-payment of revenue on a fixed date, there can be no injustice in holding this right and interest conferred on the ryot as liable to sale for the same reasons. If some such provision is not made, I fear it will be considered that the act is one-sided. It is all for the ryot. I hope no such impression will be allowed to prevail.

Section 59. I am glad to see the liberty [of the subject recognized; but the effect is completely spoilt by clause 2. Even when they agree, which is not often, a Revenue Officer must needs interfere. We legislate for the ryot on the principle that he is a man, but we treat him as if he was a child.

This section is again subversive of all the laws of political economy and everything else. If the land is capable of bearing a higher rent, why should the zemindar be compelled to let it at a lower rent?

As regards clause 2 and the one-fifth limit, I shall have something to say later on.

B.—Admitting that rents are no longer to be fixed by consent, the next best thing is a table of rates. It is another question how such a table is to be prepared, and it presupposes a certain dead level in the outturn of lands, as if improvement and industry were of no account. It is, however, the only substitute for contract; and though a rough system, will answer, where we can err in favour of the tenant without injuring ourselves. Judging by the rents prevailing in this district, a rate, the maximum of which is fixed at one-fifth of the annual value of the gross produce at harvest time, would lead to a general reduction of rents, except in a few cases of "do" lands, or lands producing more than one rabi crop.

Mr. Samuells thus concludes:

The rest of the Bill has reference to the procedure of the civil courts. I have not been able to obtain any opinion from zamindars. They have not read the Bill; and appear to take a languid interest in a measure which so vitally affects their well-being. I think it must be allowed that the position of the zamindar under the Bill will be scarcely better than that of a mere rent charger. Neither he nor his tenants can effect a compromise in future; they must be ranged in hostile camps; and the rules of the contest are rigidly fixed. The need for a law of this severe nature does not seem quite clearly made out. A member of council has stated that 80 per cent. of the ryots in Bengal have occupancy rights. In another place I find it stated, that "it is on all hands admitted to be the fact that, with or without right, the great peasant

population of Bengal has for long held the land at very low rates, far below the market rack-rent: "these are Sir George Campbell's own words. If the above statements on good authority be correct, then the mere fact of a few riots in Pubna, due, perhaps, to an overzealous officer, are not sufficient excuse for legislation. The condition of Behar has long formed the subject of complaint; but I am inclined to think the land laws are not entirely to blame. Tenancy bills are of little use to a ryot in Bettia sub-division, if he has to trudge all the way to Mozuffpore or Chupra for a hearing; and therefore, a more paternal system is required, by which the people could be gradually inoculated with certain rights: and once understood and enjoyed, they would be sufficiently tenacious of them to baffle the most grasping zamindar. This is an idea which will be considered out of date; but I equally regard an act which abolishes freedom of contract between landlord and tenant as a backward step in legislation. I have nothing more to add, except that I would not have offered an opinion on the subject, unless I had been called upon to do so. I cannot help observing in conclusion, that the zamindars suffer from a delay increasing difficulty in the collection of their rents and cesses; and I think it behoves us to strengthen their hands to the utmost. Let us, if we will, restrict the demand on the ryot, if we can do so without breach of faith with the zamindar, but afford the latter some sure means of collecting that little. Consider the large arrear in Government estates where the manager is armed with an exceptional procedure and the whole power of Government, what must be the difficulties of a private individual, whose only remedy is a civil suit, which is worthless as a resource if his ryots combine against him.

MR. MOSLEY, COLLECTOR OF MOORSHEDEABAD.

Mr. Mosley remarks:

The next chapter (V) treats of occupancy ryots, and I think that the further concessions made to the ryots are most unnecessary. This creation of the law was bad enough in the eyes of zemindars already, though I believe as a general rule the objection was a theoretical more than a practical one. As a matter of fact (excepting perhaps a few districts) a long standing tenant was seldom interfered with so long as he paid his rent.

Now, however, there is a further drawback. The new "settled ryot" taints every particle of land he touches, and there is no washing out that taint, for if a landlord buys the occupancy right, he cannot extinguish it; it passes with the land to any one who takes it. The "settled ryot" will become a marked man, never to have land given to him, &c.

There is in sections 45, 47, 50, the same disabling of certain clauses to make contracts, which I think so objectionable throughout the Bill; this is, I think, likely often to inflict hardship. For instance, it is often highly advantageous to the ryot to hold certain lands for a year or two, and this may suit the zemindar too, except for this new law which would void any contract to give it back after the term, and so the ryot will not get it.

Section 47 will cause injustice by handing over as occupancy land which has been expressly let for a term only.

In Section 50 I would alter clause a to one expressing that he may only use the land for cultivation, and clause e I would eliminate. If, as I think is the case this Bill is intended to protect ryots, I fail to see why it should allow subletting. A ryot ceases to be a ryot when he ceases to cultivate; when he sub-lets, he becomes that most oppressive of all landlords, a petty middleman. To protect the actual cultivator on the soil is well; to put a man between him and the zemindar can only injure one or the other. If the sub-tenant only pays a fair and equitable rent to the middleman, it is very evident that the latter pays a less than fair and equitable rent to the zemindar, which would be contrary to clause c, and if the ryot turned middleman does pay a fair and equitable rent to the zemindar, then it is evident that the sub-tenant, the actual cultivator, pays an unfair and inequitable rent, and how does this improve the condition of the cultivating class?

Section 56 destroys all advantage a zemindar might gain by buying an occupancy right, which would be held under clause c at fair and equitable rates, for immediately he lets another ryot on, he loses what he brought. He cannot re-let at a higher rate, for the new tenant jumps into the right of occupancy, and would say, "the rents before were fair and equitable, and you cannot make me pay more notwithstanding any contract I made."

Sections 59 (2), 61 (2), and 64 proviso, limit rent to one-fifth of estimated average value of crops, while section 81 makes it one-half. I confess that I am unable to see how this is equitable. One-fifth of the produce of an exceedingly good year may be equal to half that of a bad year, but if an average is to be taken, I should say that one-half of the average produce would be about the equivalent of one-half of the produce year by year, taking a number of years, and section 83, allowing a commutation of rent in kind on an average of five years, making a reasonable deduction as in clause 3, that is to say, the money rent may by this be nearly one-half of the average value of the produce, while the above sections make the maximum one-fifth.

We stop here to-day.

THE CENTRAL INDIA STATES IN 1881-82.

Sir Lepel Griffin's Report on the political administration of the Central India States for 1881-82 discusses some important questions connected with the development of those territories, which comprise, in round numbers, 75,000 square miles and contain a population of about 9½ millions. Central India is hardly less interesting than Rajputana. It is entirely composed of Native States of different degrees of dependence on the Imperial Government. The relation of the States of Bundelkhand and Baghelkhand to the Imperial Government is different from that of the remainder of Central India. The subordination of these States is more complete, and for this reason Political officers can interfere directly

with their concerns. Sir Lepel Griffin observes: "The influence which could be justly applied in Bundelkhand to advance a measure of Imperial policy or public importance and advantage, such as the abolition of transit duties, would be out of place with the great states of Gwalior, Indore, and Bhopal, which can only be induced to accept measures of reform by such persuasion as the circumstances of the case will allow, from a conviction of the advantages which would follow to themselves, or from a desire to earn the approbation of the Imperial Government." He points out that nothing retards the progress of Central India so much as the system of transit duties. These duties have been abolished in the States comprised in the Bundelkhand and Baghelkhand agencies, but they are still in force everywhere else. Sir Lepel Griffin rightly thinks that if Gwalior, Indore and Bhopal could be persuaded to abolish transit duties, the smaller states would very speedily follow their example. But at the same time he admits that so far as their immediate advantage is concerned, there is much to be said on the chief side of the question; and that it would be manifestly inequitable for the Imperial Government to force upon them a reform which will result in immediate loss of revenue. "The question," writes Sir Lepel Griffin, "is an exceedingly difficult one to deal with, but there can be little doubt that in some way or another, by equitable arrangement with the British Government, or by a liberal modification of their own financial system, transit duties on trade must before long cease. It is impossible that the important tract of Central India, through which so many of the main trade-routes proceed, can remain shut up in the commercial isolation which heavy and often prohibitive transit duties create. Until their abolition there can be little real progress. The railways pay no dividend, and roads made by the Imperial Government, and maintained at great annual cost, are left without traffic." But we hope the repeal of transit duties in Central India will not be brought about in the high-handed and inequitable manner in which the abolition of the inland customs line was accomplished by Sir John Strachey. Then comes the question of the construction of roads which Sir Lepel Griffin justly remarks should ordinarily take precedence of that of railways. But in Central India roads, owing to the effect of the transit duty system, take a secondary place, as it is to railways that the Government chiefly looks to break down that system. The only States which contribute to road-making are Gwalior, Bhopal, Dhar and Rewah. Sir Lepel Griffin does not consider it inequitable that the larger states, whose finances are able to bear the burden, should contribute one-half of the cost of the maintenance of metalled roads. But we cannot forget that these roads are constructed with the initiative of the British Government and often against the wish of the States through which they pass, and that they are originally designed to benefit the general commerce of the country. In discussing the subject of education, Sir Lepel Griffin lays great stress on the efficient training of those young Chiefs who as minors, come into the hands of Government. The importance of this task cannot be over-rated. But then the training which minor Native Princes and chiefs have so far received at the hands of their European guardians and tutors has fitted them rather for the pursuit of field sports than for the government of a kingdom; and that in consequence they have learned to prefer play to work. There are two Rajkumar Colleges in Central India, one at Indore and the other at Nowgong, the headquarters of the Bundelkhand Agency. The former institution has sustained an irreparable loss in the death of Mr. Abernigh-Mackay, better known as "Ali Baba," and of the working of the latter Sir Lepel Griffin does not speak highly.

Central India is divided into 70 chiefships. The ruling power in four of these is Maratha; in seven Mahomedan; in seventeen Bundela; in thirty-three Rajput and Bhilala; and in nine Brahmin and other classes. The four large States—Gwalior, Indore, Bhopal and Rewah—contain two-thirds of the entire population of Central India. The largest in point of popula-

tion is Gwalior, which possesses considerable mineral wealth, which would, if its resources were developed, support a much larger number of people. During the year under report the Maharaja Sindia paid a visit to his Malwa districts, which was productive of much good to the people. The relations of the Gwalior Darbar with the British Government, we are told, have been invariably cordial and harmonious. The Resident states that certain regulations which had been passed regarding the Gwalior Fortress, forbidding the erection of any building within range of fire from the walls, have been, after full consideration by the Government of India and appreciation of the exceptional circumstances under which the Fortress is held by the British troops, rescinded to the great satisfaction of His Highness. For this graceful act the Maharaja is indebted to Lord Ripon. In the year under review the salt negotiations with India were concluded and an agreement was entered into between the Government of India and the Maharaja Holkar, for the abolition of transit duties on salt, by which the British Government, in consideration of the loss sustained by the Darbar, granted, annually, 45,000 maunds of salt, at the rate of Rs. 2-12 per maund. This agreement, we are told, was not considered favourable by the Darbar. Sir Lepel Griffin bears testimony to the regularity and system which prevail through the territories of the Maharaja Holkar; but His Highness's land-revenue assessment appears to be severe. The revenue demand has risen in four years from 57½ to 70½ lakhs, showing a large and rapid increase, and it is the expressed intention of the Maharaja to raise it to a crore. The Maharaja Holkar is a most sensible man, and we hope His Highness will not be so foolish as to kill the goose which produces golden eggs. Although the ruling power in Bhopal is Mahomedan, nine-tenths of the population of the State are Hindu. "Of all the rulers of the different States connected with this Agency," says Sir Lepel Griffin, "there is no one more fitted, by natural gifts and acquired accomplishments, to govern than Her Highness the Begum. There is, indeed, no better illustration of the advantages of female education in India than the fact that there is, so far as my experience goes, no Prince in Central India whose ideas are so liberal, or whose actions are so public-spirited and wise, as the accomplished lady who governs the Bhopal State." The Begum's grandmother, the Kudra Begum, died during the year under report at the age of 81. The charities of this lady were munificent, and to her native city she bequeathed a system of water-works constructed by English engineers, supplying water to all parts of the city, and made this a free gift for ever to the citizens. Complaints of extreme severity of the new assessment of land revenue in Bhopal having been made the Begum herself made full investigation into the matter and reduced the assessment by nearly 5 lakhs of rupees. The administration of the Rewah State is entirely in English hands, owing to the minority of the chief. This ancient Rajput State, Sir Lepel Griffin tells us, is one of the most backward in Hindustan. The young Maharaja is described by him as "a bright and intelligent child of good promise." A council consisting of nine of the chief Sirdars of the State has been formed to assist the Political Agent with their advice and opinion in matters connected with state precedent and custom, and in the management of the mere personal affairs of the Maharaja's family. The Dewan, Pandit Het Ram, is highly spoken of. Reforms are being gradually introduced into the administration of the State, and a revised assessment of the land revenue will be shortly undertaken. The prospects of Rewah coal-fields seem to be very bright. It is expected that the Rewah coal will compete successfully with the coal mines in Lower Bengal. The experiments with it have been highly successful, and promise results of the greatest advantage to railway enterprise in India. "The administration and improvement of Rewah," remarks Sir Lepel Griffin, "perhaps the most interesting part of the duties falling to the Central India Agency, and there is every hope of the best results being

obtained, if only the chief and people are not asked to advance faster than is agreeable to them or than it is reasonable to expect."

The affairs of the numerous smaller States in Central India do not demand any particular notice. The first in dignity of the Princes of Bundelkhand is the Maharaja of Tehri, whose loyalty to the British Government and desire to administer his State for the good of his people are spoken of in the highest terms. The State of Rutlam is well administered by its young Chief, who received his education at the Indore Residency College under the late Mr. Abernigh-Mackay. Rutlam boasts of the best school in Malwa and the Raja takes interest in education and gives it much encouragement. "His Highness the Raja," writes the Political Agent, "is intelligent, assiduous and prudent, and only requires experience, and there is no fear of the prosperity of Rutlam in his hands. The Nawab of Jaora has been taking a more active part in the management of his State and has dispensed with the services of his father's Minister. "The State," says Sir Lepel Griffin, "had been too long left to the uncontrolled management of the Minister Hazrat Nur Khan, and the difficulties of the Chief in regaining hold on the administration were consequently great; but every encouragement has been given to him in his endeavours to master public business, and he rules in his own State." The administration of the Maharaja of Dhar is as good as can be found in Central India, and his people are thoroughly content with his rule. Writing in October last, Sir Lepel Griffin speaks of the injurious effect upon the Bhil population of the contemplated legislation of the Bombay Government in imposing restrictions upon the collection and possession of mowha flowers, which form an important part of the food of every Bhil household, and without which, in years of scarcity they would hardly subsist without crime. Happily, the Mohwa Bill passed by the Bombay Legislative Council has been vetoed by the Viceroy. Two States in Bundelkhand—Chirkhuri and Chatarpur—are under British superintendence, their chiefs being minors. The latter State is administered by a Native Superintendent and its progress and financial condition are reported to be satisfactory.

THE ANCIENT LAND LAW OF BENGAL.

THE object of the new Bengal Tenancy Bill, say its authors, is not to redistribute landed property, but "to restore the ancient land law of the country." This very important question has been thoroughly examined and most ably reviewed by Mr. Henry Bell in a pamphlet, the receipt of which we acknowledged last week. The first point raised is that the zemindars are not proprietors of the soil in the sense the words are understood in England. Mr. Bell thus answers this point:

"It is a matter of history that when the East India Company obtained possession of Bengal in 1765, the greatest anarchy and confusion prevailed throughout the country. The Central authority of the Emperor of Delhi had been shattered, and the Mahomedan Viceroys who governed in his name, having no object in view but their own aggrandisement, indulged in a general system of spoliation and pillage. It is hardly an exaggeration to say, that nearly every man of property in the country had been massacred or brought to ruin. As the great source of revenue was the land tax, it was natural that the landed proprietors or Zemindars would be the chief victims in a general system of plunder. In the palmy days of Mahomedan rule the land-tax was assessed with moderation and collected without oppression. The first Mahomedan assessment of Bengal was made by Akbar, shortly after his conquest of the country, in the year 1573. The principle upon which he secured his conquest was to conciliate the Hindus and to unite them as much as possible to his person and Government. The Hindu proprietors were everywhere left in the enjoyment of their lands, subject to a quit rent which each had to pay to the Government. The tax imposed upon Bengal amounted to a little more than a million sterling; and for a period of 140 years little or no addition was made to the taxation of the country. By the moderation of his rule Akbar conciliated his subjects and consolidated his empire; agriculture was encouraged and waste lands brought into cultivation; and the zemindars lived in dignity and opulence in the undisturbed possession of their

estates and the quiet enjoyment of the profits, which an extended cultivation and an increased population produced. But with the decline of the Mogul empire, the principles of Akbar were departed from, and from the year 1722 a system not of Government but of pillage and robbery prevailed. Between that year and 1763 an addition of more than a million sterling was added to the land tax of Bengal. Those zemindars who were either unable to pay or unwilling to submit to these exactions were treated with a cruelty revolting to humanity. They were dispossessed of their property, thrown into prison, and subjected to every conceivable torture. One tyrant of the name of Jaffir Khan is said to have dispossessed a large number of the zemindars of Bengal, and to have appropriated the whole of the rents of their estates which he collected by his own officers, leaving to the zemindars a bare pittance scarcely sufficient for subsistence. But though subjected to these acts of tyranny and oppression, the right of the zemindars to their lands was never denied, and sooner or later they were invariably restored to their estates.

He quotes Warren Hastings to shew

That the zemindars "were the proprietors; that the lands were their estates, and their inheritance; that from a long continuance of the lands in their families, it was to be concluded they have rivetted an authority in the district, acquired an ascendancy over the minds of the ryots, and ingratiated their affections."

One of the charges against Warren Hastings when he was impeached in Parliament was the following in the language of Burke:

That "the property of the lands of Bengal was, according to the laws and customs of that country, an inheritable property, and that it was with few exceptions, vested in certain natives, called zemindars or landholders, under whom other natives, called talukdars and ryots, have certain subordinate rights of property or occupancy in the said lands; that the said natives were Hindus, and that their rights and privileges were grounded upon the possession of regular grants, a long series of family succession and fair purchase; that it appeared that Bengal had been under the dominion of the Mogul and subject to a Mahamadan Government, for above two hundred years; that, while the Mogul Government was in its vigour, the property of zemindars was held sacred; and that either by voluntary grant from the said Mogul or by composition with him, the native Hindus were left in the free, quiet and undisturbed possession of their lands, on the single condition of paying a fixed certain and unalterable revenue or quit-rent, to the Mogul Government; that this revenue or quit-rent was called the *aussal jumma* or original ground-rent of the provinces, and was not increased from the time it was first settled in 1573 to 1740, when the regular and effective Mogul Government ended. That notwithstanding that the right of property and inheritance had been repeatedly acknowledged by the said Warren Hastings to be in the zemindars and other native landholders; and notwithstanding that he had declared 'that the security of private property was the greatest encouragement to industry, on which the wealth of every State depended,' the said Warren Hastings, nevertheless, in direct violation of those acknowledged rights and principles, did universally let the lands of Bengal in farm for five years; thereby destroying all the rights of private property of the zemindars, thereby delivering the management of their estates to farmers, and transferring by a most arbitrary and unjust act of power the whole landed property of Bengal from the owners to strangers."

What could be a better proof than the above that the zemindars were the actual proprietors of the soil?

We turn next to the rights of ryots. Mr. Bell says: "I do not wish to be tedious, but when so astounding an assertion is made that Lord Cornwallis and his advisers left the ryots without protection and deliberately overlooked their rights, or, as Mr. Ilbert says, left them outstanding, it is only fair that I should let the authors of the Permanent Settlement speak in their own defence." Sir John Shore thus wrote about rights of ryots:

With respect to the ryots their rights appear very uncertain and indefinite. While the demands of Government upon the zemindars were regulated by some standard as I conclude it was from the time of Akbar to that of Jaffer Khan, they had little temptation or necessity to oppress their ryots, but the same variable discretion, which has affected the payments required from them, has extended in the same manner to the ryots. The rates of the land were, probably, fixed formerly according to the nature of the soil and its produce; the cesses imposed by the zemindars were an enhancement of those rates, and arbitrary

at first without being oppressive. It is, however, generally understood that the ryots by long occupancy acquire a right of possession to the soil, and are not subject to be removed; but this right does not authorize them to sell or mortgage it, and it is so far distinct from a right of property. This, like all other rights under a despotic Government, is precarious. The zemindars, when an increase has been forced upon them, have exercised the right of demanding it from the ryots. If we admit the property of the soil to be solely vested in the zemindars, we must exclude any acknowledgment of such rights in favour of the ryots, except where they may acquire it from the proprietor.

Sir John made the following remarks on rent-rates:

"In every district throughout Bengal, where the license of exaction has not exceeded all rule, the rents of the land regulated by known rates, and in some districts each village has its own. These rates are formed with respect to the produce of the land at so much per bigha; some lands produce two crops a year, some three; the more profitable articles, such as the mulberry plant, betel leaf, tobacco and sugar cane, render the value of the land proportionably great. These rates must have been fixed upon a measurement of the land, and the settlement of Turymul may have furnished the basis of them. In the course of time cesses were superadded to that standard and became included on a subsequent valuation, the rates varying with each succeeding measurement."

The occupancy and non-occupancy ryots were thus described:

"There are two other distinctions of importance with respect to the rights of the ryots. Those who cultivate the lands of the village to which they belong, either from length of occupancy or other cause, have a stronger right than others, and may in some measure be considered as hereditary tenants, and they generally pay the highest rents. The other class cultivate lands belonging to a village, where they do not reside; they are considered as tenants-at will; and having only a temporary accidental interest in the soil, which they cultivate, will not submit to the payment of so large a rent as the preceding class, and when oppressed easily abandon the land, to which they have no attachment."

A ryot pays his rent either by a formal or implied agreement. The first is a deed called a pottah, which ought to express the nature and terms of his tenure and the amount of his rent; it often, however, refers some of the conditions to indefinite rule, such as the custom of the village or the pergunnah, the rates of an elapsed year, or the rent of his predecessor. The terms of an implied agreement are sometimes specific as in Chittagong, where the rents are paid from year to year, according to rates established upon a measurement of the lands in the year 1767, or indefinite, as having a reference to the rates of the last and preceding year as in Naddea. In some places as in the northern parts of the Dacca districts the collections are made by a measurement of the land held by each renter, immediately previous to the harvest, agreeable to which the lands are valued and the rents received.

Leases to the khudkast ryots, or those who cultivate the land of the village where they reside, are generally given without any limitation of period, and express that they are to hold the lands paying the rents from year to year. Hence the right of occupancy originates; and it is equally understood as a prescriptive law, that the ryots who hold by this tenure, cannot relinquish any part of the lands in their possession or change the species of cultivation without a forfeiture of the right of occupancy. Pykast ryots, or those who cultivate the land of villages, where they do not reside, hold their lands upon a more indefinite tenure. The leases to them are generally granted with a limitation in point of time, and when they deem the terms unfavourable they repair to some other spot.

Mr. Bell then shews that the rent paid by ryots was reckoned itself at half or three-fourths of the gross value of produce.

Such were the main features of the ancient land law of Bengal. If the Government wishes to be consistent, it ought to restore the *statu quo ante*, and if it does so neither the zemindars nor ryots will have any right to complain. The Government may well say that it is bound to enforce the old law of Bengal, and if under that law the zemindar is found to have better rights than the ryot, the legislature of to-day cannot fairly be blamed. Mr. Bell deserves the thanks of both the Government and the zemindars for elucidating the "ancient land law of Bengal," so clearly, unmistakeably and forcibly.

MR. COTTON ON ENGLAND AND INDIA

MR. H. J. S. COTTON, of the Bengal Civil Service, is one of those few Anglo-Indians who entertain generous sympathies for the people of India. He is a zealous Positivist, and as such, he is always ready to advocate the cause of truth and justice. As a sincere friend and well-wisher of the Indian people Mr. Cotton has filled the gap caused by the premature and lamented death of Mr. J. C. Geddes. While yet an Assistant Magistrate, Mr. Cotton, it will be remembered, wrote a powerful trenchant article against Sir George Campbell's road-cess scheme in the *Calcutta Review*. This article clearly showed the stuff of which its writer was made, and it made even a strong-minded man like Sir George uneasy. As Collector of Chittagong Mr. Cotton made a vigorous protest against the unsound principles on which Mr. Lewis, the Commissioner, had been effecting the survey settlement of the Noabad taluks in that district—a protest which did not go for nothing. Mr. Cotton is now in England on furlough, and there he has raised his voice in support of the noble principles on which Lord Ripon's Indian policy is based. His utterances on this subject possess a peculiar interest and value for our countrymen. Mr. Cotton, like all sensible and right-thinking persons, holds that "the rule of an alien bureaucracy is an attempt predoomed to failure." The truth of this proposition cannot be denied. It has been mathematically demonstrated in Mr. Seymour Keay's paper entitled "The Spoliation of India" in the *Nineteenth Century*, which we noticed in recent issues. The remedy which Mr. Cotton proposes to apply to the existing evil is very simple. He recognises the merits of the Indian Civil Servants, but he at the same time pertinently observes:—"The Civil Service exists for India, and not India for the Civil Service. To reconcile the interests of each will be a most delicate problem. The admission of natives without competition to certain grades of subordinate office is an idle device, so long as the phalanx of the Covenanted Service remains unbroken." Other writers of his stamp have been content to go on in a vague way urging the higher employment of Natives in the public service. Mr. Cotton has had the boldness to face this important question in an open way. He says: "The keynote of internal reform is the gradual substitution of Native for European official agency. The reform is necessary as an economic measure. The Government of India by Englishmen has the fatal defect of being too expensive. The cost of the British officials is too great, their salaries are too high; and the blessings of European Civilisation that they impart, are luxuries beyond the means of the people. India can no more afford the privilege of being governed by foreigners, can no more pay for her gigantic system of railways, her palatial barbacks and other public buildings than the English farmer can afford to plough with race-horses or the Indian ryot with elephants." That the English administration of India is excessively costly cannot be questioned by any person possessed of a few grains of common sense. All substitution of Native for European Agency will effect an important reduction in the public expenditure. The Government have on many occasions given the most distinct pledges that no effort shall be spared to secure every possible retrenchment in the cost of the civil administration; but these pledges have not yet been redeemed. There can be no doubt that by abolishing many unnecessary offices a considerable saving may be effected; but one of the chief agencies to be relied on in order to secure a more economical administration is a larger employment of Natives in the Government service. The interests of the public imperatively demand that the Government should freely open to the children of the soil all positions which they are qualified to fill. It is certainly not creditable to our rulers that in spite of repeated pledges the Natives should be excluded from any office which they were qualified by education and character to hold; it has been officially acknowledged that very little has been done in the way of substituting Native for European agency. On the contrary, a great increase has taken place in the number of Europeans in

some branches of the public service in violation of this policy.

An increased employment of Natives in the public service would not only result in a large reduction of expenditure, but it would also be a measure of justice and of improved administration. Mr. Cotton speaks nothing but the truth when he states that the British officials, from the necessity of their position, labour under disqualification for which the general excellence of their work can afford no compensation. "The members of the Civil Service," he continues, "when very young and very ignorant of the language, are vested with Magisterial powers beyond comparison greater than those possessed by any corresponding functionaries under any civilised Government, and being uncontrolled by public opinion and with little public experience, they are liable to be in some measure inclined towards undue severity. There is, however, no reason why in India, more than many other parts of the world, important judicial and executive functions should be discharged by persons of unripe age; and it is an obvious reflection in favour of the employment of Natives of the country than they can be vested with appropriate powers, when age and experience may be accepted as a guarantee for the proper exercise of authority." The inevitable consequence of conferring large criminal powers upon raw and inexperienced youths even before they have acquired a knowledge of the language of the people, is a crop of Magisterial vagaries and scandals. Such vagaries and scandals we see often in various parts of the country. Irresponsible power is apt to intoxicate the brain of any man, and Indian Civilian are but mortals. They are not so much to blame as the vicious system under which they are vested with great Magisterial powers before they are fit to exercise them properly. It has become a fashion with the opponents of the policy of promoting an increased employment of Natives in the service to say that our countrymen are not qualified for the higher class of executive posts. Mr. Cotton shows up the hollowness of this specious plea. He observes:—"Whereas the Executive Branch demands qualifications other than intellectual, such as energy, decision, self-reliance, power of combination and organisation of managing men and so forth, which are deemed to be qualities as yet imperfectly developed in Natives, therefore it seems to be thought better to refrain from placing Natives in the higher class of executive posts, which, according to this view, ought to be reserved exclusively for Europeans. The Natives are assumed to be unfit to have charge of Districts. It is convenient to assume that all Englishmen are cool and wise in danger, while no Natives are so, and that consequently only Englishmen and no Natives are competent to be entrusted with independent charge. By a process of the grossest self-adulation, we persuade ourselves to believe that Natives are only useful as ministerial servants, but that the work of a District, if it is to be done at all, demands the supervision of an English officer. The truth, however, is that the Natives, as, of course, they must be, are the backbone of our administration. The heat and burden of the day are already borne by Native subordinates, and, in the event (as occasionally must be the case) of an incompetent European being in charge of a District, the whole of the work is discharged by his Native Deputies and clerks." Whenever fair trial has been given to competent Native officers in the public service, they have never been found wanting. Well does Mr. Cotton say that in districts which are placed in the charge of incompetent Europeans, as is sometimes the case, the real work is done by Native subordinates. The absolute correctness of this statement must be admitted by persons who are thoroughly acquainted with the actual state of things existing in the country. As a matter of fact, there are many Natives who are just as competent to have the charge of districts in point of ability and integrity as any European. This was stated in plain and emphatic terms by Sir Charles Wingfield, formerly Chief Commissioner of Oudh, in a paper read before the East India Association about a dozen years ago. Sir Charles spoke with the authority of

personal knowledge, and his statement has not yet been contradicted.

MR. LETHBRIDGE ON THE BENGAL TENANCY BILL.

MR. ROGER LETHBRIDGE has written a powerful pamphlet on the "mischief threatened by the Bengal Tenancy Bill." He opens his paper with the following quotations:

"That ungodly measure of wholesale robbery, The Bengal Tenancy Bill. . . . A measure which threatens to create an agrarian revolution."—*Hindoo Patriot* (the leading Native Paper of Bengal).

"In the present instance, it is one party to the contract which proposes, of its own motion, and by the abuse of a plenary power, to override one of its most important provisions, in a way which must not only most seriously affect the pecuniary interests of the other party, but work a complete revolution in their status."—*Englishman* (the leading English Paper of Bengal).

"The effect of the Bill is simply to deprive the zemindars of their proprietary rights, and to render them mere ciphers upon their estates."—*Petition of Behar landholders to Parliament*.

"Your Petitioners are filled with great anxiety, apprehension, and alarm at the introduction into the Council of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General for making laws and Regulations of a Bill entitled 'The Bengal Tenancy Bill,' the manifest tendency of which seems to be to revolutionise the present relations between landlord and tenant in the provinces of Bengal and Behar, to redistribute landed property on a new and inequitable basis, and to fetter the freedom of action of all classes interested in agriculture by driving them at almost every step of their mutual transactions to Courts of Law and fiscal officers, and to foster dispute, litigation, and animosities in lieu of peace, harmony, and good-will among them."—*Petition of Bengal Landholders to Parliament*.

"I confess I view with horror and dismay the revolutionary provisions of the present Bill."—*Minute of the Chief Justice of Bengal*.

"The Governor-General in Council trusts that the proprietors of land, sensible of the benefits conferred upon them by the public assessment being fixed for ever, will exert themselves in the cultivation of their lands, under the certainty that they will enjoy exclusively the fruits of their own good management and industry."—*Permanent Settlement (Regulation I. of 1793, Section 7 Art. 6)*.

"Government must divest itself of the power of infringing in its executive capacity the rights and privileges which, as exercising the legislative authority, it has conferred on the landlords. No power will then exist in the country by which the rights vested in the landholders by the Regulation can be infringed, or the value of landed property affected."—*Permanent Settlement (Regulation II. of 1793, Section 1)*.

"The revolutionary measure which threatens our existence. . . . The selling price of small zemindaries has, since the agitation for changes in the rent law has commenced, fallen from thirty-two years to sixteen years' purchase, and there is a tendency to further decrease. Negotiations for sale have been broken off, and in many estates the friction has already commenced: the ryots en masse, in view of the coming changes, withholding the payment of their just rents."—*Petition of Behar Landowners to the Lieut.-Governor of Bengal*.

The main features of the new Bengal Tenancy Bill are the three Fs. of the Irish Land Act. Mr. Lethbridge thus exposes these provisions of the Bengal Bill:

Take, for instance, the first F.—Fixity of tenure. There is already a very large amount of "fixity of tenure" in Bengal. Good authorities have estimated that nine out of every ten ryots in Bengal proper already possess occupancy rights, whether as customary rights sanctioned by the old regulations, or as rights acquired under Act X. of 1859, or otherwise. So the Government of India, as if to keep up its character, has ingeniously devised a new turn of the screw in this direction, by proposing to enact, that a man who has acquired occupancy rights over the tiniest plot of land in an estate, shall, *ipso facto*, be held to have acquired those rights over all the rest of the land he may hold in that estate, even if the latter has only been held for a single day, and if it be a hundred times the size of the small plot that confers the title.

Again, the occupancy rights are to be acquired by the ryot whether he wishes it or not; they are acquired "notwithstanding any contract to the contrary." The abolition of freedom of contract, which is one of the great points of this Bill, I hold to be as degrading to the ryot as it is annoying to the zemindar, and as likely to be prejudicial to his interests.

And, once more, these occupancy rights, and this fixity of tenure, are henceforward to grow up as inexorably in the landlords' own domain-land, if let for any exceptional reason or temporary exigency to a tenant, as it does in lands that have always been ryoti. And the retrospective character of the proposed legislation is applied with such rigour to the question of what is domain-land (*khamar*) and what is not, that no land is to be held as domain unless it has been continuously occupied by the landlord as his private land for twelve years prior to the introduction of the Act. And further, no additions are henceforward to be made to the domain-land for any reason whatever. For instance, a landlord may lose all his domain by diluvion, but is not to be allowed the privilege of adding to it in

consequence of alluvion, or by reclamation of waste. And lastly, to secure the rigorous enforcement of this provision, the Local Government may order a survey and register to be made of all *khamar* land in any district or districts, thereby, at a huge cost, letting loose on the land all that storm of extortion and oppression from subordinate officials that usually attends all inquisitorial operations of this kind.

(1.) "Fair Rents" are to become universal in Bengal.

(2.) The tenure-holder may obtain the "Fair Rent," by first ignoring all existing contracts for enhancement (which are hereby swept away) and enforcing all existing contracts against enhancement (which are to retain all their virtue); then squeezing the landlord down to the lowest rate obtainable by the higgling of the market under these favourable conditions; and finally harassing the unfortunate landlord, either by vexatious abatement suits to which no penalties are attached, or by paying into Court an inadequate rent, or by any other means at his disposal.

(3.) The landlord, on the other hand, may obtain the "Fair Rent," if he can. But, as I have said, all existing contracts empowering him to enhance are swept away, all contracts forbidding enhancement are retained. He can make no new contracts for enhancement, except at the sweet will of the revenue officer, who is to "satisfy himself" that it is fair and equitable, and even then only under the most stringent limitations of both the actual and the relative amount of enhancement permissible. He is further to be limited, in such districts as the Local Government may choose, by the arbitrary *maxima* of a "Table of Rates" to be drawn up by the revenue officer at the expense of a local rate. And if he shall have succeeded in getting through the meshes of all these various limitations, he may institute a costly suit for enhancement of rent in the Civil Court; but here again only under the most stringent conditions. And after all this, he is at last met by the absurdly low and arbitrary limit, that under no circumstances can he obtain more than one-fifth of the estimated annual value of the produce of the land in staple crops, at harvest-time prices.

I believe this to be an accurate statement of the way in which the second F. is settled by "The Bengal Tenancy Bill;" of which the points seem to me to be, that it virtually sets up the arbitrary opinion of the revenue officer as the criterion of what is to be the amount of the landlord's income, that it absolutely necessitates an enormous amount of litigation, that it summarily sweeps away all contracts or other presumptions in favour of the landlord and vigorously enforces all that may be in favour of the tenant.

Next, we come to the third F. (Free Sale). The sudden and wholesale introduction of the transferability of occupancy-rights seems to me by far the most mischievous and revolutionary part of the Bill. Such transferability as a principle has been hitherto absolutely unknown in Bengal; even as an incident, it has, I believe, been unknown except under some few exceptional or local customs in Eastern Bengal. The disastrous effect that this revolution will have on the position, the influence, and even the personal comfort of the landlord by taking from him all control over the selection of his own tenants, and putting him at the mercy of his bitterest or most disreputable enemy in this respect—has apparently been perceived even by the Government of India. Mr. Ilbert, in his *Statement of Objects and Reasons*, speaks of these possibilities with a sympathetic tenderness, that reminds one of the bitter tears shed by the Carpenter, when he contemplated the sad fate of the oysters he was about to devour. Mr. Ilbert feelingly mentions, "cases in which a spiteful neighbour might be willing to pay an exorbitant sum for occupancy right with a view to harassing the landlord." But what is the remedy provided by the Government of India for the unfortunate landlord, against the very worst that can happen to him? Simply this, that they profess to give him the right of pre-emption on the occasion of the sale of the occupancy-rights on any of his farms. And what is it that they allow him to buy? Amazing to say, it is not the transferable occupancy-right—which they allow any one else to buy, and for which they force the landlord to pay the full value to the uttermost farthing (to say nothing of the obvious probabilities of tricks being practised to raise the pre-emption price). What the landlord buys at this full price is simply the right, on his own land, to refuse the new obnoxious tenant *pro hac vice* only, and to cultivate the land in person; for he is not allowed to sell the commodity he is supposed to have bought, and if he lets the land to any other tenant, the new tenant *ipso facto* acquires that commodity, can sell it once more to the old obnoxious purchaser, and so the process of bleeding can go on *ad infinitum*, or until the landlord is ruined. And each time the landlord buys, he buys not any valuable or exchangeable commodity, but simply a temporary immunity

from the persecution to which the law has made him liable.

Mr. Lethbridge justly contends that no case has been made out for such a revolutionary measure as the one before us. It involves, however, not only a breach of a solemn compact but also threatens the country with serious evils to both the landlord and the tenant.

THE INSTALLATION OF THE MAHARAJA OF KUCH BEHAR.

It has become the fashion with our Government to instal an independent and tributary Native Prince on the *guddi*. Hitherto these Princes used to ascend the *guddi* without the intervention of the British Government. Perhaps the present practice is regarded as an outward symbol of the paramountcy of the British Power in India. The installation of the Maharaja of Kuch Behar was a grand ceremony. The auspicious occasion was attended by some of the leading men of Bengal and also by not a few high officers of State. The following list is supplied by the special correspondent of the *Indian Daily News*:

Cooch Behar, November 8th, '83. 40 a.m.—No pains have been spared to provide sumptuously for the comfort and entertainment of the guests. The programme of entertainment consists of banquets, balls, tennis, *nautes*, races, athletic sports, theatres, billiards, and *jathras*. A great number of guests, both European and native, have arrived at Cooch Behar to witness the installation of the Maharajah among whom are the following: His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, Lord Ulick Brown, Mr. Penock, Mr. Livinge, Mr. Barnes, Captain Connor, the Hon'ble Mr. Hewitt, Captain and Mrs. Gordon, the Rev. Mr. Stephenson, Mr. and the Hon'ble Mrs. Southby, Mr. George Clarke, Mr. and Mrs. E. Martin, the Maharajah of Bardwan, Colonel Thompson, Captain and Mrs. Scott, the Hon'ble Mrs. McDonald, Miss McDonald, Miss Simpson, Mr. Blyth, Mr. Wace, Mr. Murray, Miss Gordon, Miss Garth, Mr. P. M. Apear, Mr. and Mrs. Porter, Mr. and Mrs. Norman, Mrs. Kilby, Mrs. Egger, Mr. and Mrs. Dalrymple, Dr. Martie, Rajah of Digaputia, Nawab Abdul Lutef, C. I. E., Pundit Mahesh Chunder Nayarata C. I. E. Kumar Indro Chauder Singh of Paikpara, the Zamindar of Kakia, Rai Upendra Nath Dwarka Bahadur, the Zamindar of Lakkhipore, Agent of the Deb Rajah of Bhootan, Babu Mohesh Behary Sen, and several other gentlemen.

The ceremony of installation is thus described:

The Commissioner made a brief introductory statement after which the Lieutenant-Governor addressed the Maharajah. At the commencement of His Honour's address the Maharajah, Rajahs, Nawabs, Rai Bahadurs, and all the native gentlemen present rose from their chairs and remained standing until His Honour concluded his address. The Maharajah was then conducted to his seat by the Lieutenant-Governor. On the Maharajah taking his seat, a salute of thirteen guns was fired. The Maharajah then addressed the Lieutenant-Governor, after which he introduced the chief native officials of the State. After the presentation the Maharajah was conducted by the Secretary to the Government of Bengal in the Political Department to the front of the dais where he received *uttar* and *pan* from the Lieutenant-Governor. He was then re-conducted to his seat by the Secretary in the Political Department. The Maharajah of Burdwan, the Rajah of Digaputia, and Nawab Abdul Lutef were then conducted by the Secretary to Government in the Political Department to the front of the dais, where they also received *uttar* and *pan* from the Lieutenant-Governor. They were then re-conducted to their seats. The rest of the native gentlemen present received *uttar* and *pan* from Babu Calicadas Dutt, Rai Bahadur, Dewan of the Cooch Behar State.

His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor addressed the Maharaja to the following effect:

Your Highness Maharajah Nripendra Narayan Bahadur. I am present here to day to formally transfer to your personal rule this State of Cooch Behar, which owing to your long minority has been now for twenty years under British control. I speak in no conventional terms of gratification when I say that it is an exceeding great pleasure to me to preside by virtue of my office at this ceremony, because in the first place I have had the pleasure of knowing you now for several years, and have the confidence which I don't think is misplaced that in delegating authority to you, we are delegating that which is not only yours by rightful inheritance, but by the fair equipment of your mental and bodily powers to the exercise of the prerogatives of a high position, and secondly because in discharging finally the trust which the Government had assumed, and has exercised for these many years, it does so with the justifiable consciousness of a duty which has been successfully and honorably fulfilled. I have the less hesitation in saying this because personally I can claim nothing of the praise which is due to those who have laboured incessantly for your interests in the advancement of this state. But I should be wanting in my duty if I failed to take advantage of this the first public opportunity which I have had of testifying to the merits of an administration which in the hands of my friend Lord Ulick Brown the present Commissioner of the Rajshye Division has achieved results in the well ordered organisation of a state which has now to be transferred to your own management.

I have not time even if the occasion called for it to enter upon any detailed review of the British administration of the Cooch Behar State since your father's death, but to those who may be curious to know these particulars, I would say that the paper which I hold

in my hand and which will be shortly published contains a succinct, clear, and full statement from the pen of Mr. Dalton, the Deputy Commissioner, of the condition of the State when British administration commenced in 1863, and of the initiation and progress of the vigorous reforms in all departments which have marked that administration up to the present date.

If I may very briefly summarise that report, it tells us that while the great departments of Civil and Criminal Justice embracing in their subordinate branches the work of Courts of all grades, the Police and the Jails, have been modelled upon the familiar systems which prevail in British India, they have been adapted in many details to the particular condition and circumstances of the people and the districts. In addition to these it may be noted that the twenty years of our management have seen the establishment of an education department and whereas in 1864 there were two schools in the State with 150 pupils there are now 330 schools with nearly 10,000 students, of which 24 containing 300 children are for female education.

Similarly a Public Works Department mainly under the direction of a native superintendent of Works, Babu Govind Chunder Roy, records great triumphs in the completion of an excellent plan of well laid out, and well bridged road ways, connecting the capital of the State with the Bengal Railways, and is soon to inaugurate a Railway system of its own.

More recently a Forest and Agricultural Department has been added to your list, and I am glad to know that the latter has found a qualified and intelligent administrator in a relation of your own, who has fitted himself for its special duties by a successful course at the Royal College of Agriculture at Cirencester.

Postal and Telegraphic communications are well-established throughout your territory. Of course it may be said that all these after all are but the beginnings of civilisation, and that as large spending departments they take a great deal out of the Treasury, and bring little or nothing in. I would observe then, that a good beginning is more than half the battle won, and is as complimentary to the Departments that pay as to the Departments that spend on excellent investments.

I commend to your careful supervision the efficient maintenance of all these institutions. I like it that no man would be called a wise proprietor much less a wise ruler, who neglected the principle that a progressive expenditure is necessary to meet the claims and necessities of his own position and those of his people, and that to allow roads and education and developments to lapse from niggardly regard of an over-cautious economy would tend to forfeit all because any decline in the standard of the intelligence and independence of the people must in the end be followed by an impoverished treasury.

In the case of Cooch Behar, however, the most remarkable progress has been in the development of its wealth and agricultural resources, and certainly looking to the achievements which your able and experienced Dewan has effected, in a complete survey of the State, in a detailed settlement of the land, and the registration and record of all individual rights on the soil, you have secured results which in repressing litigation and in establishing fixity of tenure on reasonable rent rates, give the best securities of a prosperous and peaceable peasant proprietary. I urge upon your serious attention the continuous maintenance of that record as the charter of your people in their agricultural possessions. It is my strongest conviction that a settlement of the land, based on moderate assessments and for periods of sufficient duration to call forth the energies of the cultivating classes in effecting improvement, assures not only the happiness and contentment of the great bulk of the population, but is your best security for their loyalty and attachment in times when troubles come and adversity presses.

I am glad to receive the intimation that your treasury is well filled and that you commence your official life with a considerable investment in the public securities supplemented by an assured income which is fourfold greater than your father enjoyed. I believe I am right in the supposition that I am speaking to one who knows the value of money and the beneficent purposes which it can subserve in the work of Government, and above all and perhaps the suggestion is not unimportant that you have learned the difficult lesson of being able to say no.

The acquisition is nevertheless difficult because its value is great, especially in the context of public concerns, because it is so easy to make concession to satisfy one's own inclination of doing kindness, and giving pleasure to those whom one would wish to please. I understand that you have yourself sketched out the arrangements under which your future administration is to be conducted, and it confirms me in the view of the good sense and good judgment which, I trust, will characterise the whole of your work. You have arranged for a system of Council under which the revenue, and civil and criminal, administration of the country is to be in the hands of officers selected by yourself, men well experienced in business, and who, while discharging their own special duties, will co-operate with you as their president in the conduct of the general affairs of the State. I think this is quite the best form of administration which you can adopt, not as an excuse for frequent absenteeism on your part, or the delegation of your own burdens to other shoulders, but on the condition that you assume yourself your rightful place as head of the Government of the State, and accept to the full the high responsibilities of your exalted position.

You have enjoyed the advantage of a residence in England, and in your intercourse with Englishmen both at home and in this country have gained, I know, the esteem and regard of many friends. You have acquired not only a mastery of our language but some insight into our ways and manners and habits without I am glad to think any imitation of our vices. You have an appreciation, I believe, of the kindly sentiment and good feeling which Englishmen entertain for the advancement of the people of India in the path of all real and true progress. You can unceasingly further that cause in your own person by making the independent management of your Native State by native agency a model of administration, assured at all times of the sincere good-will of the paramount power to whom you own a tributary allegiance, and of their willingness to support and protect you as long as your rule is conducted on the British principles of equity, lenity, and justice. I congratulate you Maharajah upon your accession to your principality; you stand forth this day not at all as succeeding to princely inheritance to be used in the gratification of selfish or ambitious aims,

but as the representative of more than half a million of subjects whom God has committed to your trust. Be faithful to that trust, so that when it comes to you in the common fate to lay down principality and power, the rejoicing may be that you have earned the commendation of your own conscience and the gratitude of posterity.

The Maharaja replied as follows:

Your honour I desire publicly to express my grateful recognition of the many obligations by which I myself individually, and my state are bound to the British Government, and to assure you of my unflinching loyalty to her most gracious Majesty's Government, from the heads of whose representatives, I have ever received much consideration, and under whose fostering care, my country has so materially prospered. It is with much pleasure I acknowledge the unwearied interest in all that concerns me, and mine on the part of my esteemed friend Lord Ulick Brown, to Mr. Dalton and to Babu Calicadas Dutt, Rai Bahadur, my thanks are in no less a measure due for their able administration of my affairs. In conclusion I would tender to His Honour my keen appreciation of the honour done me in coming to this remote corner of Bengal to place me on the *guddi* of my father. It shall be my earnest endeavour to do justice to the great trust which I now undertake.

We again offer our hearty and sincere congratulations to the Maharaja. His administration of the State will we repeat be the best test of the character of the culture and training he has received under the auspices of the British Government. The Maharaja has issued a proclamation appointing a Council of State, of which His Highness is himself proclaimed the President, Captain Gordon Member and Vice-President and Superintendent, Dewan Calicadas Dutt, the second member, and a Judicial officer the third member. We hope His Highness will take an active part in the administration of his State.

THE RENT BILL AND THE ZEMINDARS.

THIS is the title of a clever articles in the first number of the new Indian periodical, called the *Indian Review*. The writer, who signs himself "*Nirapekhyia*," seems to be thoroughly acquainted with the subject. He says, "the zemindars were certainly not mere tax-gatherers immediately before the Permanent Settlement. Had such been the case, minors and females would not have succeeded. The farmers and sub-farmers under them may more properly be termed tax-gatherers." As for the ryots, he observes, "theoretically their position may have been good, but in reality this was not the case. Mr. Shore, in paragraph 233 of his minute of June 1789 says: "The arbitrary impositions of the zemindars are generally measured by the supposed ability of the ryots to pay them." Again: "The rights of the ryots appear very uncertain and indefinite." "When the rents by successive impositions become too heavy, the ryots either abscond, or the zemindar allows them a compensation by giving them other land at a favourable rate; but seldom by remitting either the imposts or diminishing the rates of the other lands." "The zemindars in general enter into no engagements with the ryots, but collect what they can. . . . The impositions are said to be numerous and unascertainable, and the want of engagements renders it impossible to detect abuses." Again, in another place, Mr. Shore says: "We know also that the zemindars continually impose new cesses upon their ryots, and having subverted the fundamental rules of collection, measure their exactions by the abilities of the ryots to pay." With regard to the present Bill the *Reviewer* remarks: "It is the deliberate and decided opinion of men who have an intimate knowledge of the country and the people that the Bengal Tenancy Bill has gone far beyond the necessities of the case. Many of its provisions unfairly curtail, and in some cases destroy, the undoubted rights of the zemindars, and there are parts of the Bill that are mischievous and likely to bring about most embittered relations between landlords and tenants." Further: "If the Bill be passed in its present shape it will inflict enormous injury on the zemindars, and reduce the value of their estates by at least fifty per cent., and at the same time it will plunge the land-owning classes into bitter and ruinous litigation." Regarding the arbitrary distinction drawn between *khamar* and *ryoti* lands the *Reviewer* says: "Does this mean that all the culturable waste in an estate is to be considered *ryoti* land? If so, it is difficult to see with what justice, on what principle, or for what reason a land-owner is to be deprived

of his property in what is sometimes the most valuable portion of his estate. I venture to think the provisions about survey and registration of khamar lands will be a fruitful source of expence and litigation." With respect to the extension of the occupancy right the *Reviewer* remarks: "The extension of the occupancy right diminishes the profits of the zemindars, and for this reason the new provisions should not have a retrospective effect. This is the least that the zemindars can demand. But it appears to me that very good cause may be shewn why the occupancy right should not be extended so far as it has been. It is only human nature that zemindars should attempt to prevent the accrual of occupancy rights. Every man wishes to increase his income, or at least to prevent its diminution, and the acquisition of an occupancy right in a certain portion of a zemindar's land means that, *quoad* that piece of land, he is prospectively a poorer man; for the future it will yield him a rent of five rupees only, whereas, but for the occupancy right, it might speedily have yielded him ten, and after some time even fifteen rupees. Is it, then, a matter for wonder that the zemindar should complain that the Legislature should, by one stroke of the pen, raise almost the whole body of his tenants to the position of co-proprietors?" As to the transferability of the right of occupancy, the statement of objects and reasons says that the right of pre-emption given to the zemindar will prevent an objectionable tenant being forced on him against his will. But what will this right of pre-emption avail the zemindar? The *Reviewer* answers:

"Simply nothing. He merely buys a bag of wind. For he must sublet the land in nine cases out of ten, and immediately he sublets it, the tenant acquires a right of occupancy in it. The land remains raiyati land, and any contract to the contrary is expressly forbidden. Moreover, the new tenant will virtually hold at the old money rent, for section 56 enacts that the rent is to be fixed in accordance with the provisions of the Act, and the existing rent is presumed to be fair and equitable, until enhanced under the Act. The landlord is not only prevented from settling the land as he pleases, but he will not even be able to get a substantial bonus or *salami* from the new tenant. It will be his interest to get a tenant as quick as possible, rather than let the land remain waste, and this fact will be well known to his tenants. It will cost the tenants nothing to wait a year or so, while landlord suffers a dead loss from the land remaining unlet. Thus it will be seen that the landlord has no possible object in buying up rights of occupancy. He pays the purchase money and absolutely gets no equivalent for he will almost certainly be able to get no more rent from a new tenant than what was formerly paid. He may therefore allow the intending purchaser to purchase. His right of pre-emption is no right at all: it is worth nothing. It may be said that a landlord, who purchases an occupancy right, may keep the land, in his own hands and cultivate it by his servant or hired labourers. But how much can a landlord cultivate in this way? Obviously only a very limited quantity. The subject of subletting will be noticed further on.

The *Reviewer* thus comments on the provisions for compensation for disturbance:

The Bill provides that, if an ordinary ryot be ejected by a decree of court, the landlord must pay to the ryot such sum as the court may award as compensation for improvements, together with a further sum as compensation for disturbance equal to ten times the yearly increase of rent demanded by the landlord. The introduction of these new elements is, I am deliberately of opinion, much to be regretted. Such ideas are alien to the rent law of Bengal, and their introduction will only cause needless and harassing litigation. It must be remembered how much easier it will be to prove occupancy rights under the Bill. Why should so much protection be extended to ordinary ryots? The privileges accorded to occupancy ryots sufficiently impoverish the zemindar; surely he should be allowed a little more liberty with regard to his ordinary tenantry. The Bill appears to take away at one fell swoop all the profits of the zemindars.

The introduction of the principle of compensation for improvements will not increase harmony between landlords and their tenants. The principle is foreign to the tenant-law of Bengal. Cases of ejection of occupancy ryots will be very few and far between; their position is assured. As for ordinary raiyats, there is no reason why Government should legislate in their interests so as to injure the zemindars. They should of course have the right to erect a dwelling house; but the effect of allowing them to

make other improvements will be that the landlord will be unable to eject them owing to the expense of doing so. A landlord thinks an ordinary ryot should pay, say, two annas extra in the rupee. If the ryot does not agree to the enhancement, the landlord must sue to eject him, and the decree for ejection is conditional on his paying into court within fifteen days such sum as may be declared payable as compensation for improvements, and also a further sum as compensation for disturbance equal to ten times the yearly increase of rent demanded. Say the ryot's rent is Rs. 10. The landlord wants two annas extra in the rupee, or Rs. 11-4 in all. He must pay the ryot Rs. 12-8 as well as compensation for improvements. What in the world is the use to the landlord of any increase, if he must at once pay away a sum equal to such increase for the next ten years? So far as I can see, every ryot must become a settled ryot within a few years after the passing of the Bill.

The *Reviewer* thus draws attention to the manifest tendency of the Bill:

The present Bengal Tenancy Bill is not only most favourable to the ryot, but it is so at the expense of the zemindars. The practical question is, whether the circumstances of the country justify such legislation. What have the collectors of districts said in answer to such question? In Eastern Bengal the ryots have the upper hand. In Central and Western Bengal they are at least able to hold their own. Combinations to withhold rent from a new putnidar are only too common. Where is the oppression committed by the zemindars? Now and again cases for taking some ryot to the catchery and wrongfully confining him are instituted, but at least as many of these cases are false as those that are true. I have not seen any literature which makes out a powerful case against the zemindars. If there are papers showing they have abused their powers, and indulged in wholesale oppression, the Government would do well to publish them. In districts where education has spread much, it is by no means an easy matter for a zemindar to commit oppression, to eject a tenant, or to take more rent than he is legally entitled to. The tenantry are well able to hold their own; they have had ever since 1859 privileges, some of which the Irish tenantry got only in 1870, and some of which they have not even got to this day. Then, again, any legislation that will lower the influence and status of the zemindars is most earnestly to be deprecated. That there may be one or two black sheep among them cannot be denied. But as a body they are a source of strength to the Government, and there are numbers of them of whom Bengal may well be proud. Has a sufficient case been made out for curtailing the rights of these men, for rendering them mere annuitants on estates of which they were formerly the real owners, masters, and managers? What is the opinion of the Collectors of districts on the Bill? They can speak to the relations of landlords and tenants in their respective districts. Nothing but a general consensus among them as to the necessity for the Bill will justify the Legislature in passing it. The sanctity of the Permanent Settlement must be left beyond question, and for this reason more weight should be attached to the opinion of Lower Bengal than to those of North-West Officers.

Considering the undoubted position of the ryots prior to 1859, all honour must be given to those legislators who produced such a Magna Charta for the ryots as Act X of 1859 assuredly is. Surely they were bold friends of the ryots who enacted sec. 6 of that Act giving the occupancy right, who put new restrictions on enhancement, gave full opportunity of proving fixed rents, curtailed the power of distraint, took away from landlords the power of compelling the attendance of their tenants, and enacted many other provisions favourable to the ryots. The opinion of Sir Barnes Peacock and other eminent judicial officers, the outcry of the zemindars as to breach of faith, and indeed the time it has taken the ordinary tenantry to recognise the existence of a twelve years' rule in their favour,—all this and more besides shows that sec. 6 was practically an innovation, though perhaps not historically and theoretically so. Lapse of time is no unimportant factor in the consideration of such questions; vested interests are sold and purchased, and each year that passes increases the sense of security. Even Government is barred by limitation in the courts; and there is no valid reason why lapse of time should not be taken into consideration when vested interests are interfered with by legislation. When rights and privileges long enjoyed are taken away, compensation must be given. Why compensation was even given to the slave owners, whose enjoyment of rights can scarcely have been deemed a lawful enjoyment. The present Bengal Tenancy Bill is not required; it is a revolutionary measure; it robs the zemindars of rights, privileges, and status, which they have enjoyed for at least a century, and of which no officer

who knows the country ever suggested they should be deprived: it makes the position of a settled ryot more important and valuable than that of a zemindar, and generally it confers on cultivators rights which they never asked for, and some of which they never even heard of. The Bill is a shock to security, subversive of the rights of property, and a deathblow to the zemindars.

Such is the opinion of all experienced and impartial men. But it seems we are crying in the wilderness. The Government of India is determined to pass the Bill *volens volens*, and the Lieutenant-Governor, *mirabile dictu*, goes beyond the Bill. So between the two the poor zemindar is sacrificed, though experienced and responsible local officers cry to the executioner to stay his hand.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES

HIS HONOR the Lieutenant-Governor returned to the capital on Saturday last. He was received at the Sealdah Railway station by a large number of European and Native gentlemen. The Volunteers furnished a guard of honor, which presented arms as His Honor alighted.

WITH reference to our remarks on the exclusion of the Burdwan Division from the scope of the circular lately issued by the Government of Bengal on the subject of the threatened scarcity we are informed that a separate report having been previously called for from the Burdwan Commissioner the Burdwan Division has not been included in the circular.

STRANGE to say that the Government has not yet passed orders on the petition of His Highness the Maharaja of Burdwan and other zemindars of Burdwan and Hooghly against the continuance of their present obligation to provide supplies for troops *en route* through their districts. The zemindars have no longer their old powers, why should they be saddled with their old obligations? Besides, nothing could be more abhorrent to the Hindu than to have to supply beef. We hope there will be no further loss of time on the part of Government in passing needful orders on the subject.

WE HEAR that there is again a project before Government of absorbing the district of Howrah partly into the district of Hooghly and partly into that of Midnapore, the town of Howrah being as regards the Magistracy put on an equal footing with Calcutta. We are not aware of the reasons which in the opinion of the abolitionists call for the process of absorption mentioned, but we hope nothing will be done without taking the opinion of those experienced officers, who understand Howrah well, we mean Mr. Wace and Mr. Buckland. Change for the sake of change is much to be deprecated.

THE MONTH of Kartic is nearly over, and yet *kejur ras* or date-juice, the luxury of the poor and the innocent, is not to be had in the town. People ask—is this the outcome of the excise policy of Mr. Thompson, which cheapens country liquor and taxes the date juice? The contrast instituted is marked and by no means creditable to Government.

THE SURABI gives currency to certain rumours in reference to the proceedings of Mr. Monro, the Presidency Commissioner, connected with the proposed reception of Babu Surendranath Banerjya at Barrackpore, on the day of his release. These are that the Government of India had called for an explanation from the Bengal Government as to the proceedings referred to, that the Magistrate of 24-Pergunnahs explained that he acted under the orders of Mr. Monro, the Commissioner, and that the Government of India has expressed an opinion that Mr. Monro should be no longer kept in the responsible post he holds. We are placed in a position to state that these rumours and statements are wholly without foundation.

PUNDIT JUDUNATH VYDYABHUSUN brings to our notice a serious complaint against the toll collectors of the Port Commissioners at the Ahiritola Ghat. He says that he was sending by boat a milch cow with a calf to his native village, that the toll collector under orders of a Saheb demanded toll for the cow and calf, that he explained that he was not sending the animals for sale, and that he was not therefore liable to the toll, but the Saheb insisted upon payment, and he accordingly paid 3 annas and 9 pies under protest. He then appealed to Mr. Duff Bruce, the Vice-Chairman of the Port Commissioners, who at once remitted the toll levied and refunded the amount paid. Now, if domestic animals, not intended for sale, are not liable to toll, the question is why was the toll demanded at all. How much petty oppression is in this way committed one has hardly an opportunity of knowing. In this instance the Pundit tells us that the question to him was not simply one of a few annas but of caste importance, because the payment of the toll implied that the cow was for sale, and a greater reproach could not be cast upon him than that he was a cow-seller. Happily Mr. Bruce promptly redressed the Pundit's grievance, but we hope he will kindly see that no room is given for such grievances in future.

WE HAVE received a copy of a memorial which the zemindars of Behar propose to address the Viceroy in Council against the Bengal Tenancy Bill. They thus begin :

That your memorialists as a class of men, deeply interested in land, look with serious apprehension, at the failure of *Bhadol* and *Kharif* harvests of the year, and are afraid that great scarcity may not unlikely prevail, the prices having already risen.

2. That the earliest consequence of such scarcity, is the total cessation of payment of rent by the Ryots, where the *Nakdi* (cash) rates prevail, and the crops failing a total diminution of the income of your memorialists' estates where the *Bhowli* (Metayer) system exists.

3. That Your memorialists, under the terms of the Permanent Settlement, and under the stringent provisions of the sale laws, will nevertheless have to discharge the Government Revenue and cesses with due punctuality. In most cases they can do this only by mortgaging, or otherwise encumbering their estates.

4. That in view of the Bengal Tenancy Bill being passed into law, there has been a great depreciation in the value of the landed estates of Zemindars—a fact, which Your humble memorialists, respectfully brought to the notice of His Honor, the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal by a memorial while he was in this Province in August last, and with respect to which Your memorialists humbly craved enquiry. Your memorialists are in a position to prove that since the agitation for the amendment of the law relating to landlord and tenant has been going on, the selling price of zemindari rights has fallen from 33 to 12 years purchase and that negotiations for the sale and mortgages of estates have broken off.

5. That with this depreciated value of land, Your memorialists can only expect to raise loans to meet their liabilities for Government Revenue and the cesses on the most disadvantageous terms. The rate of interest that prevails is the usurious rate of 24 per cent per annum.

6. That in addition to their liability for the punctual discharge of Government Revenue and the cesses, in seasons of scarcity Your memorialists have hitherto very gladly undertaken the pleasing duty of relieving the distress of their Ryots, to the best of their ability, and for this in most cases again, they had to raise money by loans.

7. That since the present agitation the tenants, in several instances have been treating their landlords badly, by altogether withholding rents and though Your memorialists are sure that they will forget and forgive all differences in seasons of calamity, it behoves a paternal Government to remove all causes of irritation between the landlords and tenants, which must inevitably result if the Bengal Tenancy Bill be proceeded with at this Session.

Accordingly the memorialists pray that the Bill be either withdrawn or be not proceeded with this session. We are decidedly of opinion that with the prospect of a widespread distress in the country owing to failure of crops the Bill should not be pressed this session.

WE THANK the Calcutta Correspondent of the *Dundee Advertiser* for a copy of his pamphlet on the Ilbert Bill. It is a remarkable pamphlet. It discusses the whole question in a calm and impartial spirit and does not leave the opponents of the measure a leg to stand upon. We hope the Eurasians will appreciate the incisive logic of this critic. They ought to remember that the part they have played in this business is the weakest, the most irrational, and the most ridiculous. We would strongly commend this pamphlet to the perusal of the opponents of the Bill.

PANDIT UPENDRAMOHUN GOSVAMI has just published, in Sanskrit and Bengali, a learned essay on the personality of the Godhead, under the title of *Nityarupa-sansthapana*. His

object is to refute the theory, adopted by Brahmyas and others, of the Supreme Divinity being impersonal and devoid of qualities, and to show that the Hindu Sastras believe in a personal God exercising direct providence over the creation. Without such providence there would be, he holds, no incentive or occasion for faith and devotion. The manner in which the thesis has been worked out does great credit to the learning and logical acumen of the writer, and the mass of evidence produced by him is certainly very convincing. The subject, however, is quite unsuited for discussion in a newspaper, and we must therefore content ourselves by inviting to it the attention of those who are interested in such polemical disquisitions. The writer is well known as a distinguished Sanskrit scholar—the ablest among the Gossains of Bengal—and we welcome the essay from his pen.

DR. HUNTER's letter to the *Times* on the Ilbert Bill, which we have already noticed, has more than temporary value. We have therefore thought it proper to reprint it in pamphlet form and circulated it to the vernacular papers throughout the country. We hope our vernacular contemporaries will in discussing the subject observe the same moderation which so eminently characterizes Dr. Hunter's letter.

WE OBSERVE that the India Club has voted an address of congratulation and a portrait to the Maharaja of Kuch Behar on his installation on the *guddi* of his forefathers. It is satisfactory to note that both the European and Native members of the club have gone hand in hand in this movement.

THE VOICE OF INDIA may now be pronounced a complete success. It is edited with great ability and care. All shades of opinion are fairly represented in this periodical. The last number before us is a fair specimen of the style of the work done. We repeat that the more widely this journal is circulated the better.

MR. BRANSON seems to be irrepressible. He has again spoken on the Ilbert Bill and again vented his spleen against the Bengalis. At a Conservative meeting at Birmingham he thus vituperated the people of Bengal :

In India, and particularly in Bengal, the weapon of the native is a false charge. This is a fact—a fact that none, even among themselves, will attempt to deny. If one man has a grudge against another, it finds its expression in a false charge of a criminal offence. To take advantage of a death in a family or a village, to mutilate the corpse, and make it the foundation of a charge of murder against an adversary, is an occurrence far from uncommon. I do not think I should exaggerate if I said it was a frequent occurrence. The European supervisor, then, if he gives offence to those under him by his care of his employer's interests, may find himself any day the subject of such a false charge. Hitherto he has had this safeguard. The false case got up by a native was pretty sure to go wrong in some of its details, some incident was sure to be introduced by the native scheme which would be so utterly un-English as to arouse the suspicion of the English judge or magistrate trying the case, who would put his finger upon the blot and say : "This an Englishman was not likely to do. This a native would have done perhaps, and so the native getter-up of the case has introduced it;" and thus the judge's knowledge of the nature of the accused has helped him to arrive at a right judgment. But how could this be with a native judge? The native accuser would have got up the case as would appear probable to him, and what would be probable to him would also commend itself, in all probability, as probable to the native judge. He would not be in a position to judge of what a European would be likely to do under any given circumstances, and so this great safeguard of the Englishman would be missing. I am, mind you, treating the case as if there was no question of the entire honesty and thorough conscientiousness of the native judge. But, speaking from a very large experience of native officials, I do not feel that this is the right way of regarding the matter. I do not desire to impeach the honesty of the intentions of the native judge, but my experience is that there is no class of men, no race of men, more subject to the influence of position, caste, family, friendship, and enmity in their judicial proceedings than the Bengalees. I do not desire to disparage the natives of Bengal unduly. I have lived long and worked long amongst them. They have many good qualities, but conspicuous by their absence are truthfulness and the love of justice for its own sake. To this must be added the fact that, as a nation, the Bengalees does not love the Englishman. Personal friendships there is no doubt there are. I flatter myself that I have friends among them, but I cannot say that, as a rule, there is much affection between the two nations. There are qualities characteristic, in the English which the Bengalees cannot understand or appreciate. Under these circumstances, the English think, and I am sure they think rightly, that their lives and liberties are safer in the hands of judges chosen out of their own countrymen than in the hands of a native judge.

What an indictment! If false cases of murder in this country are so common, why are charges of murder so few? Again, how many charges of murder are brought by the lying Indian against the immaculate European? If these charges are chiefly brought by natives against

natives, are the native Magistrates who try native criminals unfit to try them? As regards the Ilbert Bill no charges of murder against European British subjects can be tried by native Magistrates. Then why raise a "false" issue to prejudice British public opinion on the subject?

THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL has got into a nasty habit of reporting on the conduct of private individuals in public Resolutions published in the *Gazette*. The Resolutions reviewing the administration reports of Divisions generally contain a paragraph on the "conduct of zemindars", and in that paragraph praise and blame are dealt out with perfect *non-chalance*. By way of example we reproduce the following para from the Resolution on the Presidency Commissioner's report published in the last *Calcutta Gazette* :

Conduct of Zemindars.—Notwithstanding the publicity attending irregular proceedings in the Presidency Division, the Lieutenant-Governor is so sorry to notice that the list of zemindars described in unfavourable terms is unsatisfactorily long. Babu Jay Krishna Mukharji and Hara Prasad Ray Chaudhuri are again among the number of those who are noted to have shown no sympathy towards their tenants; and Babu Pratab Chandra Ghosh "came prominently to notice during the year on account of the oppressive and illegal *kabuliyats* which his agents obtained from ryots in his estate." It is, however, satisfactory to learn that these *kabuliyats* have been withdrawn. Babu Girija Prasad Mukharji of Gobaridanga, though liberal in other respects, is blamed for the management of his Khulna estates. Turning to more pleasant aspects of the relations between landlord and tenant, the Lieutenant-Governor is glad to notice the praise bestowed on Maharaja Nirenra Krishna Bahadur and Babu Prasanna Kumar Ray, Surendra Nath Pal Chaudhuri and Durga Charan Laha.

We have nothing to do with the individuals concerned, though we may mention by the way as we are informed that Babu Joykissen Mookerjee does not own a chutack of land in the Presidency Division, his son Babu Peary Mohun Mookerjee being the owner and manager of estates in that division belonging to the family. Surely a Government Resolution ought to be accurate in all matters of fact, but let that pass, for it may be urged that the objection taken is purely technical. Admitting however that Babu Joykissen Mookerjee is wanting in sympathy for his tenantry, what does the charge amount to? A man may be honest, law-abiding, and honorable in his dealings, though he may lack sympathy and sentiment. If Babu Joykissen has done anything illegal and oppressive the proper course is to bring him under the law and punish him, but to damage his character by casting aspersions upon him through the official *Gazette* is gross abuse of authority. Would the Lieutenant-Governor dare asperse the character of any European planter in this summary and arbitrary way? Does he not hear of any oppressions by indigo-planters throughout his vast domains, and has he ever had the courage to gibbet them to infamy through the *Gazette*? We are of opinion that aspersions of this kind come under the law of libel. We propose to discuss this question in a future issue. In the meantime we submit that in the interests of the public, who are deeply interested in the protection of private character from wanton slander, this question ought to be taken to a court of law for authoritative decision. Surely the Government is not above the law of the land.

DR. DE JONGH'S LIGHT-BROWN COD LIVER OIL.—ITS GREAT VALUE AS A NUTRIENT FOR WEAKLY CHILDREN.—In case of languid and imperfect nutrition often observed in children, the surprising efficacy of Dr. de Jongh's Oil is thus described by Dr. Edward Carey : "It is in the diseases incidental to childhood that mainly depend on the mal-assimilation of the food in the pale cachectic child, when the anxious practitioner has exhausted the whole range of alternatives and tonics, that Dr. de Jongh's Cod Liver Oil will come in and satisfy his most sanguine expectations. Where the powers of life are low, it affords nourishment to the body when none can be borne; it furnishes the frame with fat in a truly wonderful manner; and administered as it is in Holland to the delicate and puny child, who, though not considered ill, is in that state of impaired health which would favor the development of disease, its extraordinary effects will soon be visible, after having taken it for a short period, in a return to health and strength which were before unknown, and which will be accomplished by no other remedy with which we are acquainted." Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil is sold only in capsuled imperial half-pints, pints, and quarts, with his stamp and signature and the signature of his sole consignees on the capsule and the label under wrapper, by all chemists,

druggists and store-keepers. Sole Consignees, Ansar, Harford and Co., 77, Strand, London.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

MOFFUSIL SUBSCRIPTIONS.	Rs.	As.	P.
Phonidhar Chatterjee Esq., Luckhimpore.....	5	0	0
Rev. Lal Bahary Day, Hooghly College.....	13	4	0
Mou vi Ohiduddin Mohamed, Dinagore.....	10	0	0
C. V. Shashia Naidu Esq., Kalenagar.....	8	0	0
Baboo Teoylucknath Mookerjee, Gowhaty.....	6	10	0
Nepitchunder Bose, Sevan.....	5	0	0
Mohimchunder Roy Chowdry, Burrisal.....	10	0	0
Prosunocoomar Dutt, Dacca.....	6	10	0
Prosunocoomar Banerjee, Saidpore.....	4	3	0
Khetterchunder Chatterjee, Gowhaty.....	6	4	0
Isurechunder Seal, Cachar.....	6	10	0
Hurymohun Sanyal, Silligore.....	6	10	0
Durgadas Chatterjee, Krishnagar.....	13	4	0
Jodonnath Ghose, Jessore.....	10	0	0
Dwarkanath Mitra, Srikistopore.....	20	0	0
Nundlal Coondoo, Chandpore.....	13	0	0

Government Notifications

Calcutta Gazette, 7th November 1883.

General—27th Oct.—The services of Mr A W Paul, Jt Magte and Depy Colr, 24 Pershs, on leave, are placed temporarily at the disposal of the P W D of this Govt. from 13th Novr 1883.

28th Oct.—Moulvi Dilwar Hossein Ahmed, Depy Magte and Depy Colr, Jamui, Monghyr, returned to duty on afternoon of 23rd inst.

29th Oct.—Mr J T Babonau, Depy Magte and Depy Colr Julpigore, leave for two months, from date he may avail himself of it.

30th Oct.—Baboo Manick Lal Pal, Offg Depy Magte and Depy Colr, Dinagore, is transferred to the sudder station of the Pubna dist.

1st Novr.—Baboo Ashootosh Gupta, Offg Persal Asst to the Comr of the Rajshahye and Cooch Behar Divn, to be Persal Asst to the Comr of the Chittagong Divn.

Mr F H B Skrine to act in the first grade of Jt Magtes and Depy Colrs, in Moredabad, on being relieved of his present appt as Offg Magte and Colr of that dist by Mr H Mosley.

Mr A C Tate to act in first grade of Jt Magte and Depy Colrs, in Dinagore, on being relieved of his present appt as Offg Magte and Colr of that dist by Mr G Toyubee.

5th Novr.—Baboo Akhoy Kumar Bose, Depy Magte and Depy Colr, Tipperah, leave for one month, from date he may avail himself of it.

Mr R M Wallar, Offg Magte and colr, Mymensing, leave for one month, from date he may avail himself of it.

Mr G E Manisty, Offg Jt Magte and Depy Colr, Mymensing, to act as Magte and Colr of that dist during absence of Mr R Wallar.

6th Novr.—Mr F H Pellet, cs, reported his departure from India on furlough on 29th Augt 1883.

Police—25th Oct.—Mr F Wilcox, Dist Suptd of Police, Bactergunge, to act in second grade of Dist Supts of Police, vice Lieut-Col W W Hume.

Mr T G Charles, Dist Suptd of Police, Jessore, to act in third grade of dist Supts of Police, vice Mr F Wilcox.

Mr V W Bertelsen, Dist Suptd of Police, Mymensing, to act in fourth grade of dist Supts of Police, from 16th Augt last.

Mr P. Crouch, Dist Suptd of Police, Sibangor, Assam, to act in fourth grade of Dist Supts of Police, from 17th Augt last, vice Mr A V Kayvett.

Mr W B Savi, Dist Suptd of Police, Dairang, Assam, to act in fourth grade of Dist Supts of Police, from 18th Augt last.

25th Oct.—Col W W Hume, Dist Suptd of Police, Julpigore, to act in first grade of Dist Supts of Police, from 16th Augt last, vice Lieut-Col Kayvett.

25th Oct.—Mr C E Gouldsbury, Offg Dist Suptd of Police Manbhoom, furlough for one year, from date he may avail himself of it.

Mr E St G. Kaye, Dist Suptd of Police, Hazaribagh, is transfd to Manbhoom.

Mr Kaye is also apptd to act as Dist Suptd of Police, Manbhoom, until relieved by Mr W H Cornish.

22nd Nov.—Mr A R Anley, who was on 5th ult apptd to act as an Asst Supt of Police, is posted to the dist of Dinagore.

Mr E H D'Oyly, who was apptd on 5th ult to act as an Asst Suptd of Police is posted to Bhagulpore.

5th Nov.—Col W Gordon, Dist Suptd of Police is posted to Howrah.

Mr G W S Cox to have charge of the Police of the Gujrat Mela's, on being relieved of his present duties as Offg Dist Suptd of Police, Howrah, by Col W Gordon.

Ecclesiastical—6th Novr.—The Rev W Ulyat, Jn Chapln of St Paul's Cathedral, and Chapln of the Presidency Jail to act as Chapln of the General Hospital in addn to his other duties from 16th Octr, 1883.

Education—5th Novr.—Baboo Dinanath Sen, Jt Inpr of Schools, Dacca Circle, leave for three months.

Baboo Kailashchunder Ghose, Head Master of Dacca Collegiate School, to act in class II of the Bengal Sub-Educnl Service vice Baboo Dinanath Sen.

Baboo Kailashchandra Sen, Depy Inpr of Schools, Dacca Circle, in class III of the Bengal Sub-Educnl Service, vice Baboo Kailashchunder Ghose.

Baboo Bhuvanmohun Sen, B A, Head Master of the Furreedpore, Zilla School, to act in class IV of the Bengal Sub-Educnl Service, vice Baboo Kailashchandra Sen.

Jails—5th Novr.—Lieut-Col R Beadon, Suptd of the Alipore and Russa Jails, leave for 19 days.

Mr E W Payne, Asst Suptd of Bhagulpore, to officiate as Suptd of the Alipore and Russa Jails during absence of Lieut-Col R Beadon.

Port Trust—5th Novr.—The Hon'ble H J Reynolds C S, assumed charge on 22nd ult, of the office of Chairman of the Commissioners for making Improvements in the Port of Calcutta.

Opium—2nd Novr.—Mr H F Campbell, Sub-Depy Opium Agent, Azimgarh, Benares Agency, leave for fifteen days in extension of leave granted 15th Sept, 1883.

6th Novr.—Mr A R Bean, Asst Sub-Depy Opium Agent, Benares Agency, privilege leave for one month, from date he may avail himself of it.

Medical—29th Oct.—Surg B Gupta, Civil Surg, Pooree, leave for three months from date he may be relieved.

Asst Surg Dabendranath Gupta to have medical charge of the civil station of Pooree, during absence of Surg B Gupta.

30th Oct.—Asst Surg Rajmohun Banerjee, held charge of the office of Resident Physician of the Medical College Hospital from 14th to 23rd May 1883, inclusive in addn to his duties as second Demonstrator of Anatomy, Medical College, and offg Resident Surg of the College Hospital.

5th Novr.—Mr R N Burgess temply to have charge of the duties of Apothary to the Medical College Hospital, from 1st Sept last.

6th Novr.—Asst Surg Upendro Nath Sen, attached to the Monghyr dispensary, leave for four months, from date he availed himself of it.

Asst Surg Apoorva Krishna Chowdhry, a Superney at Rajshahye, to have charge of the Monghyr dispensary during absence of Asst Surg Upendro Nath Sen.

Advertisements.

Notice.

A meeting of the Central Committee of the landholders of Bengal and Behar will be held at the Town Hall on Saturday the 17th November at 3-30 P. M. for the purpose of considering the propriety of 1st memorializing the Viceroy in Council with reference to published official opinions, regarding the Bengal Tenancy Bill, 2ndly memorializing the Secretary of State to ask him to reconsider his decision regarding the Bill, 3rdly memorializing the Viceroy in Council to postpone the Bill till the orders of the Secretary of State are known and of taking such further steps as may be deemed advisable.

KRISTODAS PAUL
Secy. Central Committee.

NOTICE.

BETHUNE SOCIETY,
Session—1883-84.

The 1st monthly meeting of the present Session will be held at the Theatre of the medical College on Wednesday, the 14th November 1883, at 8½ P. M., when a lecture will be delivered by M. Jules Joubert on Exhibitions. The public are respectfully invited to attend.

RAJENDRA NATH MITTRA,
Honorary Secretary.

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* Complaints have reached the publisher from all quarters of the insufficiency of time of publicity given for advance payment. He has therefore determined to keep the reduced price (the real price being Rs. 2.) up to the 30th November, 1883 and the public are warned that this is the last chance given them.

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১৪১ নং, বারানসী ঘোষের স্ট্রীট; কলিকাতা।

(TRANSLATION.)

কলিকাতা আন্তর্জাতিক প্রদর্শন।

এতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারণকে অবগত করা যাইতেছে যে পৃথিবীর সমস্ত দেশের দর্শনীর বস্ত্র সমুদয়ের একটি প্রদর্শনী এই সালের ৪ঠা ডিসেম্বর হইতে আগন্ত সালের ১লা মার্চ পর্যন্ত কলিকাতার ময়দানে হইবে। অনেক মান ধরিত্রী বাঙ্গালার লেটেনেন্ট গবর্নরের আদেশে জাহাজের দক্ষিণ ভাগে ও ময়দানে প্রদর্শনীর বস্ত্র সমুদয়ের সংস্থতির জন্য বাটীসকল নিযুক্ত হইতেছে। এই প্রদর্শনীর বাটী সমুহের মধ্যে ইংলণ্ড ও অন্যান্য বিদেশ সমুদ্র যন্ত্র শিল্প ও আবিষ্কৃত সামগ্রী সমুদয় প্রদর্শিত হইবে। আর বাঙ্গালার দেশে ও এই সাত্রাজ্যের অন্যান্য দেশে যত বহু মূল্য ও অত্যাশ্চর্য বস্ত্র নিযুক্ত হইয়া থাকে, বাহ গবর্নমেন্টের বিশেষ নিযুক্ত কর্মচারীগণ কর্তৃক সংগৃহীত হইয়াছে তাহাদেরও আদর্শ প্রদর্শিত হইবে। ভারতবর্ষের মাহাত্ম্য ও গৌরব দেখিবার জন্য পৃথিবীর সকল দেশ হইতে বহুল লোকের সমাগম হইবে। আর ভারতবাসীরা পৃথিবীর পূর্ব ও পশ্চিম দেশসমুদয় অসংখ্য সুন্দর সামগ্রী দেখিতে পাইবেন। এই প্রকার বিদেশীয় নূতন শিল্প বস্ত্র সকল ভারতবর্ষে প্রচলিত হইবে এবং নানা বস্ত্রের বাণিজ্যের আধিক্যতা উপাদিত ও ফলপ্রসূ হইবে।

এই সকল বস্ত্র ব্যতীত যে কেহ ইচ্ছুক হইবেন মহারাজা, রাজা, নবাব, ঠাকুর, জমিদার, মহাজন, ও অন্যান্য ধনী লোকদিগের মনি মানিক্যাদি দেখিতে পাইবেন। এই সকল বস্ত্রের নিযুক্ত, বাহার মূল্য লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকা হইবে, একটি স্বতন্ত্র বাটী নিযুক্ত হইয়াছে যথার উচ্চ প্রদর্শিত ও সুরক্ষিত হইবে।

এই প্রদর্শনীর বস্ত্র সকল সর্বদা দেখিতে পাওয়া যাইবে এবং অপরাহ্ন ও রজনীর নির্দিষ্ট সময়ে বিভিন্ন কচি লোকের জন্য বিভিন্ন প্রকার ও মনোহর তামাসা প্রদর্শিত হইবে। ইহার মধ্যে নানাপ্রকার বাদ্য ও রিড্যান বিবরক কোতুক হইবে ও সময়ে সময়ে উহা পরিবর্তিত হইবে।

বাহাতে প্রত্যেক ব্যক্তি কি ধনী, কি দরিদ্র, যতবার ইচ্ছা এই প্রদর্শনী দেখিতে পারেন, রবিবার ও বুধবার ব্যতীত সপ্তাহের সকল দিবসেই সকল ১০টা হইতে বৈকল ৭টা পর্যন্ত প্রবেশের মূল্য চারি আনা নির্ধারিত হইয়াছে, রাত্রিতে প্রবেশের মূল্য আট আনা হইবে। বুধবারে বাহার বিশেষ সুবিধা ও স্বচ্ছন্দের সহিত প্রদর্শনী দেখিতে ইচ্ছুক হইবেন তাহাদের এক টাকা দিতে হইবে।

ইহা ও বাঞ্ছিত যে ভারত মহিলারা এমন অপ্রকাশিত ভাবে এই প্রদর্শনী দেখিতে পান যে তাহাতে জাতির কেনরূপ হানি না হয়, এই জন্য ভবিষ্যতে নির্দিষ্ট দিবস কেবল তাহাদের জন্যই রাখা যাইবে, যখন কেবল স্ত্রীলোকদিগেরই প্রবেশাধিকার থাকিবে এবং পুরুষ নিষিদ্ধ হইবে।

এই সকল বিচিত্র ও মনোহর সামগ্রী সমুদয় সমদর্শনের ভারতবাসীদিগের এইটাই প্রথম সুবিধা এবং এমন বোধ হয় যে এখন বাহার জীবিত আছেন তাহাদিগের জীবদশায় পুনশ্চ এইরূপ সৌভাগ্য আর ঘটিবে না। এই জন্য গবর্নমেন্টের ইচ্ছা এই যে যেমন সংগ্রহ করিতে এত বড় ও ব্যয় হইয়াছে কি উচ্চ, কি নীচ, কি প্রধান, কি অপ্রধান, কি ধনী, কি দরিদ্র সকলেই এই প্রদর্শনীর দেখিতে আসুক এবং ইহার জন্যই প্রবেশের মূল্য এত অল্প করা হইয়াছে। প্রত্যেক ব্যক্তিরই আসা কর্তব্য।

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